Arafat-Mubarak meeting receives mixed reactions

By Hamdan Al-Haj

Star Staff Writer

AMMAN — The meeting between Palestine Liberation Organization leader Mr. Yasser Arafat and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo last week has set in motion a wave of criticisms in the Middle East and elsewhere in the world.

In Jordan, the Prime Minister Mr. Mudar Badran, addressing the National Consultative Council last Monday said "we are not well qualified to criticise the visit. If we do not get the circumstances leading to the meeting and what was the meeting about we can't discuss it unless we are briefed on it". He said, "Arafat knows the real benefits, the results and the need for such a visit. But let us wait for more details in addition to the developments that may appear after it."

Besides that, a local newspaper interviewed a number of prominent Jordanians and Palestinians for their views. Responses varied from person to person and from party to party. Some supported the visit and called for more of such things, others condemned it, considering it a shift from

News Analysis

the Palestinian unanimity and the rest preferred to remain silence until more information is obtained about the meeting.

Another Jordanian newspaper said that, Mr. Arafat's visit did not stem from a vacuum. It quoted President Reagan as saying that, after Mr. Arafat's visit, it is wrong to believe that the Arab-Israeli conflict cannot be resolved without a solution to the Lebanese crisis. And this is a new attitude that has separated the Lebanese crisis from the Arab-Israeli dispute. The paper also quoted the Soviet News Agency as saying "the Soviet Union is in favour of granting the Palestinians a little more than autonomy and a little less than an independent state", thus getting closer to Reagan's line. The Soviet ambassador, in Tunis, met with the PLO representative there and re-affirmed his country's support for the PLO under Mr. Arafat.

In the occupied territories Mr. Arafat's action found support in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The people there, are giving priority to ending the occupation. "The time has come for the Palestinians to turn away from guerilla warfare and seek a political solution for their future" some West Bank mayors were quoted as saying.

In Israel, the Cabinet secretary, Dan Meridor, said that Egypt's hosting of Arafat, violated at least the spirit of its peace treaty with Israel. And the US applause for the meeting cast a shadow over US-Israeli relations.

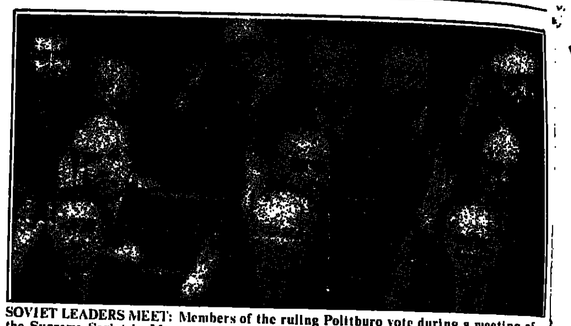
In another development Israeli radio reported that Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, has sent a letter of protest to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz over the US statement welcoming the meeting. Three Israeli newspapers reported that the US administration asked Egypt to sound out Arafat on opening formal US-PLO ties on condition that the Palestine Liberation Organization recognises Israel and accepts the UN security council resolutions 242 and 338.

The Jerusalem Post newspaper, in an editorial, said that behind Israel's condemnations of the meeting was fear that a militarily-defeated Arafat may tend for a political solution in co-operation with Jordan, and Israel should prepare for this unpleasant reality.

In Iran, Prime Minister Hussein Musawi denounced the Arafat-Mubarak meeting. He described it as a great treason. "Meetings with the Egyptian president and other reactionary Arab rulers by those who must symbolize the spirit of the Palestine liberation movement are a great treason for the Palestinian cause." he said.

A statement by the Central Committee of Fateh, the largest Palestinian group headed by Mr. Arafat, criticised both Arafat for visiting Cario. "Palestinian people and their institutions are the only ones entitled to judge this visit" the statement said. The statement added that the Central Committee will take the necessary steps and procedures to ensure the adherence to the Palestinian National Council resolutions without specifying what these steps might be.

It also questions why Arafat's critics remained silent when President Amin Gemayel of Lebanon, who signed a separate agreement with Israel, met with Libyan Leader Moammar Qadhafy in the Libyan capital and with the Syrian Foreign Minister Abdel Halim Khaddam in Beirut recently. Most of the critics argue that the meeting amounted to an acceptance by Arafat of the US inspired Camp David Egyptian — Israeli peace treaty.



SOVIET LEADERS MEET: Members of the ruling Politburo vote during a meeting of the Supreme Soviet in Moscow on Wednesday. Conspicuously missing is the Soviet leader Mr. Yuri Andropov, whose absence increased speculations about his failing health. Left to right in the front row are: Mr. Andrei Gromyko, foreign minister, Mr. Konstantin Chernenko, Politburo member and Prime Minister Nikolai Tikhonov. (AP Wirephoto)

Reagan takes blame for Marine deaths in Beirut

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Reagan has accepted responsibility for the deaths of 241 US Marines in the terrorist bombing of the Marine headquarters building in Beirut on 23 October.

In a meeting with reporters in the White House on Tuesday Mr. Reagan said that Marine commanders in Lebanon should not be punished for failing to provide adequate security, because they did not fully comprehend the threat posed by terrorists. "If there is to be blame," he added, "It should rest in this office and with this president. I accept this responsibility."

The president pointed out that the Pentagon report on the incident completed late last week by the long commission had drawn the conclusion that the United States "and its military institutions are by tradition and training inadequately equipped to deal with the fundamentally new phenomenon of state-supported terrorism." "I wholeheartedly agree with that conclusion" Mr. Reagan said. He said the United States needs to systematically redevelop its security to face the problem of such terrorism.

Mr. Reagan emphasised that this does not mean the United States is not working urgently as possible to create political conditions in Lebanon that will make it possible to remove the Marines. "But we must not be led into believing that terrorism will vanish on the happy day that our forces come home" he said.

American forces in Lebanon continued Mr. Reagan "have already contributed to achievements that lay the foundation for a future peace, the restoration of a central government and the establishment of an effective Lebanese army." He said "we do not expect utopia, but I believe that we are on the verge of new progress toward national reconciliation and the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon."

The president noted that there was reason to believe that the presence of the Multinational force has made some progress. "We have now an agreement between Lebanon and Israel which has Israel's agreement to withdraw. I don't believe that it's possible to have a similar kind of agreement with Syria, which would recognise some of Syria's interests. And we saw at Geneva, there was a kind of tacit recognition that the present government of Lebanon was the government of Lebanon" Mr. Reagan concluded.

McFarlane outlines American foreign policy

By Abdulsalam Massarueh

Star Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON — President Reagan's National Security Adviser, Mr. Robert McFarlane, appearing on 16 December at the Foreign Press Centre forum outlined American foreign policy objectives, and he left so much to be desired.

The crux of these is for the United States to face the Soviet Union, head-on, with more strategic weapons, train Israel, at the present time, to be the proxy for American designs in the Middle East, and to encourage democracy for countries around the world.

But McFarlane, who was President Reagan's Middle East envoy, after Philip Habib, was vague in presenting the issues which concern the Arab world. There was a tone of arrogance in his remarks and his contentions which reflected in his Marine-like answers.

He spelt out President Reagan's ensuring objectives which include among other things, the economic recovery of the United States, restoring strength in order to create an effective deterrence, improve relationship with America's allies, establishing a more stable basis for US-Soviet relations and to establish a comprehensive arms control process.

Mr. McFarlane also explained America's heavy involvement in Lebanon and Namibia. The United States, according to McFarlane, seeks to stand by the Lebanese government in its efforts to achieve national reconciliation with the political opposition in Lebanon itself. The 17 May accord, which was masterminded by US Secretary of State George Shultz, is becoming the cornerstone in current and future American strategy in Lebanon.

The military advantages and security in Lebanon, is now under attack from all areas, factions and political circles in the Middle East, but Mr. McFarlane and President Reagan see it as the only salvation for Lebanon.

Dr. Henry Kissinger, who is still under the disposal of Mr. George Shultz for political advice said on 19 December that he favours alterations and modifications in the 17 May agreement between Lebanon and Israel. But Mr. Shultz sticks to "his agreement," and is not ready to admit any flaws or mistakes in creating it, something which is bringing the whole issue of Lebanese reconciliation to a halt.

Asked about the future course of the 17 May agreement and the obstacles it is creating in the way of national reconciliation in Lebanon, Mr. McFarlane said "by definition, reconciliation can only come between or among Lebanese. The United States has made clear its support of the elected government in its efforts to achieve that; and to the extent we can are willing to work with the several parties to that process to make it possible.

"The withdrawal of foreign forces is a parallel goal. For that to be possible Lebanon must be able to establish a stable security environment in the evacuated areas. We think that, that process is well along and can be put in place virtually as fast as the forces could withdraw. But it isn't unreasonable to project that if the political conditions for withdrawal could be put in place, that the security capability could keep up and that, that process could take place within six months time, given the pace at which the Lebanese army is expanding and improving."

Robert McFarlane

Mr. McFarlane elucidated his position and added: "The matter of the agreement is relevant to the extent that it provides for the withdrawal of Israel. There is a corresponding requirement for understanding and agreement between Syria and Lebanon that will take into account both countries interests in a stable relationship and in security conditions that meet their common interests. The president's commitment to lend every possible American effort to both the internal dimension and the external was renewed in the recent visit of President Gemayel to Washington."

But Dr. Kissinger added more insult to the injury which is deepening in US policy in the Middle East, by saying that the only way to get the Marines fast from Lebanon is to have a de facto position of Lebanon: The Syrians will keep the East and the North, Gemayel will keep Beirut and surrounding, and the Israelis will keep a hold on the South.

The State Department was in a dizzy over such statements coming out from the chief adviser and architect of Reagan's-Shultz's foreign policy in Lebanon. What is also throwing the Reagan foreign policy for more intensive debate is the quarrel which is going on in the Pentagon and the State Department about how America should respond to Syria's stubborn position. The air raids by American planes over Syrian positions in the Shouf area, and the subsequent downing of two US jets are creating a lot of concern among US Congressmen and leaders who supported President Reagan initially in keeping the Marines in Lebanon.

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Marines callback due soon?

By Abdulsalam Y. Massarueh

Star Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON — The United States government appears to be nearing a major turnaround in Middle East policy, caused by recent events including a Syrian gesture of good will and mounting criticism over the US military presence in Lebanon. President Reagan will retreat from his hard-line policy stance very soon, political and diplomatic observers predict.

The statements and criticism that have been directed at the president climaxed last Sunday, New Year's Day, when three former CIA directors — James Schlesinger, William Colby and Stansfield Turner — all questioned the Marines' role. A call for the withdrawal of the Marines within 45 days kicked off Walter Mondale's campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination, and a letter signed by at least 70 Congressmen called on Reagan to change the course of US involvement in Lebanon.

All these signs are indicative that a decision will be made to finish the Marines' involvement in Lebanon within two to three months. The declared position of Senator Charles Percy, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, who is calling to withdraw the Marines, is one of the most important developments. It will definitely influence Reagan to make a quick decision. Senator Percy was supportive of the Marines' presence in Lebanon up until now.

State Department sources were quoted as saying that "American policy in Lebanon has degenerated to the point where its sole purpose is to avert problems that would arise if the Marines were withdrawn." Now that President Reagan cannot influence events and create "an independent, secure Lebanon free of foreign forces," he is willing to accept the natural order of things, which means a return to the pre-1970 Lebanon.

In the view of some State Department Syria experts, now that the PLO is gone from Lebanon, Syrian political influence — not military occupation — will be the order of the day. This approach would entail promoting a Syrian-Israeli "condominium" over most of Lebanon. Such an arrangement would create the atmosphere for a Syrian-Israeli deal, and all indications are that such a deal is one of the reasons that motivated Syria's President Assad to free captured Navy Pilot Robert Goodman. Assad's desire to strike a deal, through Lebanon's dilemma, with Israel about the Golan Heights, is also seen as being involved.

This scenario will most likely bear fruit within the next couple of months. The US is realizing now that it has to focus its eyes on the occupied West Bank if it really wants to capture the momentum of some peaceful movements in the area. Reagan's White House now believes that peace in the West Bank has to take priority over Lebanon, and that this peace cannot wait until better conditions and peace in Lebanon are accomplished.

WHITE HOUSE MEETING — President Reagan smiles while talking with Secretary of State George Shultz, left, and special Middle East envoy Donald Rumsfeld at the White House on Tuesday, before Rumsfeld's return to the Middle East. (AP Wirephoto)

President Reagan is looking now for a quick way out of the quagmire of Lebanon. This is why he sent Senator John Tower and Senator John Warner (both Republican supporters of his Middle East policy) to the Middle East, where they will talk with the Syrians, Egyptians, Lebanese and Israelis about how the US can cut its losses, strike camp and bring the Marines home.

Washington now admits that it can no longer depend on Israel to carry out its policy in the Middle East, and President

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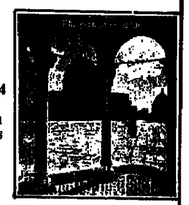

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UNRWA official states his case

UNRWA Director in Jordan Per Olof Hallqvist, in an interview in this week's Star, makes it clear to Staff Writer Amal Ghandour that his agency sees absolutely no political significance behind the controversial new move to issue plastic registration cards instead of paper documents to refugees.

Although it does not agree with the Jordanian government's stated rejection of the move, UNRWA is trying to solve the problem through discussion, Mr. Hallqvist says. UNRWA Commissioner General Olof Rydbeck is expected in Jordan shortly for this purpose. See the full story on page 4.

100 die in Israeli onslaught

BEIRUT (AP) — Israeli jets staged their heaviest attack in Lebanon on Wednesday since Israel's 1982 invasion, bombing and strafing pro-Iranian guerrilla bases in the Syrian-Controlled Bekaa Valley for one hour. State radio said nearly 100 people were killed and 400 wounded.

It was the second air assault in as many days, and the government radio said Israel's motive was to sabotage a potential rapprochment between the United States and Syria following the release of American airman Robert O. Goodman Jr.

"Containing, or even destroying, the improvement in US-Syrian relations seems to be the underlying purpose of the sustained Israeli raid," the broadcast said.

The Israeli command said its pilots scored accurate hits on two guerrilla bases in the Bekaa Valley that served as training camps and launching pads for anti-Israeli attacks. The communique did not elaborate.

State radio and police here said 16 Kfir jets attacked in four formations at 8:10 a.m. at a cluster of villages around Baalbek and at a police station and a former vocational school at the southern entrance to the ancient Bekaa Valley town.

Egypt, Jordan both see time pressure on Arabs

By Khader Mansour

Star Staff Writer

AMMAN — Both Egypt and Jordan believe that in relation to the Palestinian question, time is not on the side of the Arabs. This is now true more than ever before, according to a top Egyptian official.

Dr. Mamdouh Al-Biltaji, Chairman of the Egyptian General Information Bureau, told The Star in an interview that the time pressure over Palestine is the reason why leaders of both countries are keen to stay in close consultations over the Arab deadlock.

Dr. Biltaji was in Amman with Dr. Osama El-Baz, President Hosni Mubarak's Foreign Affairs Adviser, during a one-day visit to Jordan in which Dr. El-Baz delivered a message from Mr. Mubarak to His Majesty King Hussein on Monday. "It is evident that Arab countries' ties with Egypt are moving every day closer to normality; particularly Jordanian-Egyptian ties."

He continued, "Both countries feel very sad about the recent rift in the Palestine arena; including the fierce and destructive war between Iraq and Iran." Egypt and Jordan therefore are quite determined, together with all Arab and Islamic countries concerned, to spare no effort to put an end to Arab and Islamic disputes preliminary to establishing a uniform healthy stand over the Palestine issue. This could secure the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people and a genuine, durable peace for all Middle East countries.

Commenting on PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's controversial visit to Cairo two weeks ago, he said it was cordial and positive. Mr. Arafat could greatly help in achieving a comprehensive Middle East settlement, he said.

Arafat's visit to Egypt is a violation of Fateh's rules, statement says

AMMAN (Agencies) — Fateh's Central Committee issued its long-awaited statement on Wednesday evening after a five-day meeting of the committee under the chairmanship of PLO leader Yasser Arafat.

The statement said that the committee considered Arafat's visit to Cairo last month as an "organizational violation and contradictory to the method of decision-making within Fateh". It added that the members were not against the constructive efforts, which aim at restoring Egypt to Arab ranks through the abandonment of the Camp David agreements.

The Central Committee also decided to set up a committee to consider the method and shape of relations with Egypt in coordination with the PLO's Executive Committee.

Earlier, Arafat briefed the members on his visit to Egypt and his meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. Arafat said that he considered the visit as "penetration of Camp David and not an approval of it." He explained that Egypt's return to the Arab fold is not confined to Egypt's individual efforts, but required an Arab move in that direction.

He said that his visit did not entail any political agreements with Egypt. The PLO leader stressed that nothing was discussed to violate political or organizational resolutions taken by the Palestine National Council (PNC) and the Fateh movement, the statement said.

Meanwhile, the Jordanian daily Ad-Dustour disclosed on Wednesday the rea-

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Price: Jordan 150 fils — Saudi Arabia & Qatar 3 riyals — UAE 3 dirhams — Kuwait & Bahrain 250 fils — Syria & Lebanon 3 pounds

Want a good book price? Shop around

By Kathy Kakish
Star Staff Writer

AMMAN — If you want to buy an English-language paperback in Amman — shop around. This is the advice of the distributors, for it seems prices for both English and American books can vary widely from one shop to another.

This week The Jerusalem Star talked to book sellers and distributors about the pricing system for paperbacks and visited bookshops to see the system in action.

To price their books, most bookshops translate sterling prices directly into dinars, so £1.50 becomes JD 1.500. Some do the same for dollar prices and some hotels add a surcharge above this.

For example, "Petals on the Wind", by V.C. Andrews is priced by the publishers in the United Kingdom at £1.50. A hotel bookshop charges it for JD 2, which makes over JD 1 over the original price if the exchange of currency is taken into consideration. An American publishing company has priced the same book as $2.95, where it is sold at one bookshop in Amman for JD 1.500.

Harrold Robbin's "Where Love Has Gone" has the price of £1.95 in the United Kingdom. It costs JD 2.40 at a hotel bookshop, whereas another bookshop in the same area has the same copy priced for JD 1.95.

A local distributor, downtown Amman, name withheld upon request, told The Star that distributors receive approximately 40 per cent discount on the price of the ordered books. Shipping and delivery costs range between 20 to 30 per cent of the original prices.

As there are no taxes required for the import of books into Jordan, distributors are left with approximately 10 per cent profit plus the difference of currency. Thus, he commented that booksellers are charging the pound or dollar as one Jordanian dinar this is unjust.

Another distributor, who also requested not to be named, said that the discounts received from publishers range from zero to 45 per cent of the original

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Pilot's release may make US-Syrian thaw possible

Continued from page 1

Reagan has deliberately ended the short US-Israeli "honeymoon" which started on 29 November during Prime Minister Shamir's visit with the announcements of a close co-operation between the two countries.

There are sources who agree that Reagan never cared to polarize the relations between the US and the Arab world, and that the whole approach with Israel was geared towards applying pressure on Syria to soften its position and declare its readiness to negotiate. That was also Secretary of State Shultz's approach, which bore fruit in Goodman's release.

There are other important elements which are assisting Reagan in reaching his long-awaited decision to redeploy and/or withdraw the Marines. These factors are US-made, although they also come from Italy and France, who are partners in the Multinational Forces in Lebanon. Italy has decided to reduce its force by one half, and France cut the size of its contingent by 25 per cent.

Although the US said on Tuesday that it had been "informed in advance that France planned to return some of its MNF forces to the UNIFIL contingent," this was seen by many political and diplomatic observers as meaning that the whole MNF might cease to exist, and that the role of securing and policing Lebanon will fall on the shoulders of UNIFIL and UN peacekeeping elements. This might bring the Soviet Union into the diplomatic and political arena for the next stage.

When Congress returns from its recess on 23 January, it will be less than a week before Reagan announces his intention of running for re-election. There are expectations that even before then, dramatic decisions will be made in the Congress by groups including the Democrats, led by Thomas "Tip" O'Neill, who was a chief supporter of the Congressional resolution of 29 September to extend the Marines' presence for 18 months.

According to reliable Washington diplomatic sources, the US government has reached the point of desperation about possible progress in any resumption of the Geneva talks on reconciliation. US officials are upset over President Gemayel's unwillingness to engage in high-level talks with Israel. Also, current Israeli action in Southern Lebanon did not make things easier for Gemayel to US instruction to open up to the Israelis and work on implementing the 17 May agreement.

President Reagan, who promised that the Marines will leave Lebanon if there will be a "collapse of order," is conducting now his most important Middle East policy review, which will most likely generate far-reaching decisions.

Meanwhile, Reuter news agency reported that President Reagan had dispatched Rumsfeld to the Middle East to probe Syrian intentions behind the release of the captive pilot.

Wahington — Speaker of the House Thomas O'Neill Jr. talks to reporters on Tuesday as he was heading to attend a special meeting to discuss the American involvement in Lebanon (AP photo)

Israeli leaders meet on plans for Lebanon

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir met on Wednesday with Defence Minister Moshe Arens and other top advisers to decide on future Israeli strategy in Lebanon.

The daily 'Haaretz' newspaper reported that Arens had already approved the plan, which calls for Israel to transfer its control of the south to Shi'ite Muslim and Christian Lebanese sympathetic to Israel and to United Nations and Multinational Forces.

But Israel Radio reported that Israel has no intention of withdrawing unilaterally, and was working in co-ordination with the United States in encouraging the Lebanese government to impose its sovereignty in the south.

Shamir has been under heavy pressure at home to prevent the escalating Israeli casualties in the south from guerrilla attacks, especially in the Sidon area near the northern Israeli line. Critics also claim that Israel's deployment in Lebanon is harming its training and fighting capabilities.

Israel Television quoted experts as saying Israel could have shored up its Awali River line far more effectively, and at lower cost than the $30million it spent on trenches and other fortifications.

Arens told the Israeli parliament on Wednesday that Israel was seeking to organize the Shi'ites into a cohesive anti-guerrilla force.

FRANKFURT — US Navy Lt. Robert Goodman arriving at the US Rhein-Main Air Base to change plane on his flight home from Damascus early Wednesday, after he was released by the Syrian authorities. He was flying with US presidential candidate Jesse Jackson (AP photo)

Committee issues statement

Continued from page 1

son behind Arafat's visit to Cairo based on information from Tunisian sources.

The sources said that Arafat did not plan his Cairo visit but he was informed by the Egyptian prime minister, the foreign minister and the Egyptian president's advisor that Israel has warned Egypt not to receive the PLO leader. "Israel had to understand that Egyptians do not yield to warnings or threats coming from Israel and that the Arafat-Mubarak meeting was the best reply to the Israeli threats," the sources said.

Sources close to Arafat reported that he asked permission to consult with Palestinian elements on his ship. He then notified the Egyptians conditions attached to his visit. These were:

1. Egypt's acceptance to host a division of the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA), which was stationed in Egypt before Sadat made his trip to Jerusalem.
2. Reopening of PLO offices in Cairo.
3. Resumption of Voice of Palestine broadcasts from Cairo under PLO supervision.

Egyptian officials agreed to those terms, the sources said.

The acceptance of those terms is quite important because it violates item (6) of the Camp David accords, which states that the co-signatories will refrain from granting shelter or protection to hostile forces.

Mr. Arafat was quoted in a Cairo magazine interview as saying he was not contemplating forming a Palestinian government-in-exile at the present time.

Arafat was interviewed by the weekly magazine Al Mussawar in North Yemen last week for publication in Thursday's issue.

"We have not contemplated forming a government-in-exile until now," Arafat said. He told reporters on board the ship which evacuated him and his guerrillas from North Lebanon to North Yemen last month, that he was convinced now more than ever of the need to form a government-in-exile.

Arafat told the reporters the subject would be discussed during the meeting of the Palestine National Council in February. There was no explanation for his apparent change of attitude.

In another development the supreme Palestinian military council has charged five senior officers who rebelled against Arafat with treason and expelled them from its membership, WAFA, the official Palestinian news agency reported Wednesday.

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King Hussein

King stresses special ties of Jordan, Palestinians

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein, in an interview with Jordan Television this week, stressed the uniqueness of the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship, and said the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) must refer to the people it represents for its legitimacy.

"Our stand towards the PLO is clear," the King said. "We consider the survival and continuity of the PLO to be subject to its ability to return to its origins, and to derive its power and existence from the people it represents."

King Hussein emphasised that the Palestinian legitimacy is subject to attempts aimed at dominating it by one Arab sister country or another. "We consider this as illegal and unacceptable."

The reality of present circumstances necessitate the establishment of a relation between Jordanians and Palestinians, he said; "thus indicating that the Palestine issue centrally and directly touches the Palestinians first; Jordanians equally, and then the rest of the Arab brothers."

The Jordanian-Palestinian relationship has to be convincing and acceptable to all. It has to be submitted for discussion within any text aimed at dealing with the Palestine issue among members of the Arab family and the nation striving to restore the land and to save it, he said. "We must not permit others to interfere in this respect because it is a private matter."

Referring to Israeli plans aimed at driving out the Palestinians from their land, and to the 300,000 refugees in Lebanon who will not be allowed to stay in Lebanon if the situation deteriorates, the King said that it is imperative to reach a formula for the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship that will satisfy every Jordanian and every Palestinian forever.

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2- **FLOWER MAKING** - Evening classes 5:30 for 3 months. Starting 19/1/1984. Fees JD 60.

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Club plans shorter '83 rally

AMMAN (Agencies) — With just over a month left before the start of the Petra Bank Jordan National Rally on 3 February 1984, the Royal Automobile Club has announced the final details of the event.

It is expected that interest in competing in this national rally will be high. Joining the Jordanian rally scene, as a new competing driver, will be His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah.

Entries are now open and non-club members or any residents of Jordan can and are encouraged to take part.

While actively pursuing preparations for the forthcoming Jordan International Rally — a FISA-recognised round of the "Middle East Rally Championship of 1984" — the organizers are looking for new and talented drivers who can be trained, and who it is hoped, can represent Jordan in the forthcoming championship.

With this objective in mind, the finalised rally route will be comparatively short, and will follow mostly asphalted roads in the Amman vicinity. Thus it will minimise the stress on cars and give novice competitors an idea of what rallies are all about. The club's motor sport committee will present a special trophy to the first driver in this category.

The total distance to be covered during the event will be 210 kilometres, of which half is covered in the morning leg. This starts at the club at 9:15, and the second half also ending at the club with the first car expected back at 4:25 the same afternoon.

The competitive sections — special stages — which are timed to the second — will number 14, and cover 38 kms. In two identical runs. The road books should be ready for handover to participants on 5 January.

Amateur photographers among the spectators, capturing the best action photographs along the rally route, can join the photography competition sponsored by Saltashian Company and win a valuable prize.

Rally cars will zoom along roads around Amman

ANNOUNCEMENT

RETENDERING OF KING ABDULLAH BIN AL-HUSSEIN COMPLEX AND PUBLIC PARK PROJECT
(Wadi Saqra)

The Amman Development Corporation announces retendering of the execution process of King Abdullah Bin Al-Hussein Complex and Public Park Project. (Wadi Saqra), which contains educational, recreational sport and commercial centres and car parks which constitute with the public and luna park a commercial and social complex which is considered to be a breather to the inhabitants.

CONSTITUENTS OF THE PROJECT:-

1. First phase which consists of the following:

1.1 Commercial Centre (shops, supermarket, restaurant, post office, a bank and public services) Area.. 6800 sq.m

1.2 A piazza and a shopping mall characterized by the traditional Arabic style. Area... 4,600 sq.m

1.3 Covered, semi-covered and ope. car parks that accomnodate 750 car

1.4 Landscaping, site levelling and infrastructure which include a public and luna park, open amphitheatre, cafeterias, snack bars and public services. Area.. 49,000 sq.m.

2. Second phase which consists of the following:-

2.1 The recreational centre (Cinema, Bowling hall, Exhibition hall, Cafeterias). Area . 4000 sq.m.

2.2 The tower block consists of offices. Area...13,000 sq.m.

REQUIREMENTS:-

A. The companies which had been previously prequalified for this project are requested to come to Amman Development Corporation Offices to receive the drawings, conditions and the tender documents.

B. All the Jordanian firms classified as general class, buildings, according to the new classifications of Ministry of Public Works are allowed to participate in the tender individually. Therefore, all the companies who wish to participate are requested to come to Amman Development Corporation Offices to receive the drawings, conditions and the tender documents.

C. The price of each copy of the tender documents is 1000 JD unrefundable.

D. Amman Development Corporation has the right to award execution of one phase or both phases of the project.

E. All tenderers are requested to submit an optional financing proposal for the project accompanied with the execution proposal. The optional financing proposal is considered to be a beneficial point in favour of the tenderer.

F. The tender documents in volumes I, III, IV should be filled in and submitted in three copies, of which one is original.

G. The drawings, conditions and the tender documents shall be ready on January 16th, 1984.

H. The last submission date of the tender documents will be 12:00 noon on Monday, March 19th, 1984.

I. The tender documents shall be submitted to Amman Development Corporation Offices in Shmeisani, behind The Jordan Tower Hotel opposite Grindlays Bank.

P.O. Box: 926621
Tel: 662717/662718
Telex: 22133 ADC Jo.

Sami Al Rashid
Director General

Per Olof Hallqvist

UNRWA Jordan director says:

'We're only changing paper for plastic'

By Amal Ghandour
Star Staff Writer

AMMAN — The decision by UNRWA to issue individual plastic registration cards to refugees, instead of the old family documents, has no political significance, says Per Olof Hallqvist, Director in Jordan of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees

In an interview with The Star, Mr. Hallqvist said the controversy over the cards, and the protests of both refugee representatives and the Jordanian government, were inappropriate. UNRWA "finds nothing political about changing a paper card to a plastic card," he said, adding that he felt the whole controversy arose from a confusion of words.

The Jordanian government, in statements made by Shawkat Mahmoud, Under Secretary of the Occupied Territories Affairs Ministry, has objected that the Palestinian refugees in Jordan do not need the new registration cards, since they have other forms of identification. Mr. Mahmoud further protested in interviews with the press that the new symbols on the cards differentiating among the refugees will serve to cut off 45 per cent of them from UNRWA supplies.

While agreeing that the individual plastic cards are actually needed only by refugees in Lebanon and not in Jordan, Mr. Hallqvist pointed out that UNRWA is not a political organization, and the registration cards are not identification cards. He cautioned that new cards should not be confused with Palestinian "identification" cards.

He said that the PLO, after hearing about last September's decision to introduce the cards, expressed to the agency's commissioner general an interest in issuing identification cards to all Palestinians. A resolution sponsored by Pakistan, directed to the secretary general of the United Nations, requested that the General Assembly adopt the suggestion of identification cards for every Palestinian.

The cards would have been easily issued to those Palestinians who were registered in the UNRWA books; but as for the other 2.5 million Palestinians, a committee was formed to find ways of identifying them. The committee reported back in summer without any feasible solutions. The distribution of identification cards was never UNRWA's responsibility, and the decision last year was only to "review its registration card system," said Mr. Hallqvist.

As for the differential signs on the new cards, the director affirmed that "there is no difference in the eligibility between those in the plastic cards and those in the family papers." The agency "merely replaced eight categories of eligibility with two: The 'R' stands for eligible and the 'N' for ineligible, with the difference determined on the basis of income. It is not related to ration supplies, he said.

A widespread misconception which also underlies this controversy is the idea that registration cards are ration cards. Due to shortages of funds, UNRWA rations were suspended in October 1982 except for 1... hardship cases, who were given special ration cards. This is the only existing ration card in UNRWA. Hence, Mr. Hallqvist stressed that the plastic cards will not deprive anyone who is already eligible for UNRWA's services. He indicated that the association of registration cards with rations is not totally erroneous.

'Voluntary' cards

Mr. Hallqvist also said the cards are voluntary, and no refugee is obliged to get one. "We have never, since the formation of the agency, forced any Palestinian refugee to do anything. We have offered them and still do. So there is no reason for anyone to be afraid."

On the effects the Jordanian government's opposition will have on UNRWA decision, Mr. Hallqvist asserted that "UNRWA is here in a mutual agreement with the host government, and the agency has never in its history gone against the host government's wishes." The commissioner general is coming to Jordan next week to discuss the problem with Jordanian officials, in an attempt to clarify the misunderstanding

Mr. Hallqvist added that there is no cause for concern by the Jordanian government or the refugees. UNRWA's move is only one "of changing the old paper cards with new plastic ones. A Palestinian who is already registered in the books will not be excluded from anything if he does not have the new plastic card."

Mudar Badran

Oil find calls for further testing

By Star Staff Writer

AMMAN — The petroleum discovery announced by Prime Minister Mudar Badran in the National Consultative Council (NCC) on Monday is "an interesting sounding," according to a government official involved in natural resources work. But it is far from being proven a commercially producing well, and "nobody will be honest if he says it is commercial," the official told The Star.

Mr. Badran told the NCC that the well in question, one out of many drilled by the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) and foreign companies in the Azraq basin desert area, had shown promise of being able to produce up to 400 barrels of oil a day, and that this oil was as "light" — 1.1 per cent sulphur content — as the oil Jordan imports from Saudi Arabia and refines at the Zarqa refinery. Imports are now running at 7,000-8,000 tonnes a day.

Before the well's commercial viability can be determined, a production test is necessary, the official said, adding that so far it had only be tested for 40-50 minutes. And to see how long production might be able to continue, as well as the possibility of other wells, several more boreholes would have to be drilled to check the donation of the reservoir on which the first well is drawing.

After such investigations the best method of retrieving the oil may be determined. Possibilities for making the oil come to the surface, in case it is present but fails to rise under its own pressure, include acidisation, fracturing and steam pressurisation.

After a series of unsuccessful tests in the early days of the kingdom, test drilling started in the Azraq area in the 1970s. Two Yugoslav companies drilled several wells there, and one of them found an oil show (traces) in 1982. Another well was drilled in the Wadi Sirhan. Some technical assistance has been received from the Iraqi National Oil Company — particularly in performing seismic surveys — and a drilling rig was bought from Romania in 1983. It was this rig that made the recent promising discovery.

Asked about the possibility of retrieving water from the test holes, the official said that it is known there is deep water under the desert, but extraction of the oil is more important now. The wells have already produced small quantities of water — "some slime and some semi-fresh," he said.

Rollercoaster paperback prices in Amman

continued from page 2

book price. With the 25 per cent shipping costs, a customs clearance is sometimes required, depending on the total cost of the orders, which equals around 80 per cent of the shipping costs. Although he refrained from giving a profit percentage that he, as a distributor would average, he did say that he charge his customers 500 fils for each dollar and one Jordanian dinar for each pound.

The owner of one of the bookstands downtown Amman told The Star that distributors get approximately 50 per cent discount on the original book price, and sometimes even more, depending on the demand for certain books. He said that when these distributors sell the books to the booksellers they take a 20-25 per cent profit, and the bookdealers themselves make a 30 per cent profit when selling to the public.

He also said that if publishers happened to raise the prices of their books, the local distributors will usually change the prices of the ones they have already bought at the new rates, even though these books have been paid for at the old price.

One bookshop downtown prices its books by charging 450 fils for the dollar and 750 fils for the pound. When asked about it, the salesman said that this was how it was done everywhere not realising that other bookstores do their business quite differently.

One hotel book-shop owner said that book prices were set by the distributors, and the shops have nothing to do with it. The distributors interviewed by The Star strongly rejected this saying that bookprices charged to the public are neither supervised nor set by anyone other than the bookstore owners themselves.

"Once a bookdealer purchases books from any distributor, he is free to price them the way he wants and whatever he may", said one distributor. "The only thing that books are subject to is censorship on the subjects they deal with."

"Buying books really depends on the customer," he went on to say. "But most people do not care about how much they have to pay for a book they want. If they really are, then they should go to more than one bookshop to compare the prices before buying anything." He also added that if bookdealers charged 370 fils for each dollar, and 650 fils for each sterling, they would still make a profit, although a small one.

Based on the information gathered, one can calculate approximately how much a book, priced by its publishers as $3.50 should cost. With the assumed 40 per cent discount given by the publisher (in this case, $1.40), the book will cost $2.10. Added to it is the 20 per cent cost of the shipping (70 cents), making the price $2.80. Assuming that the distributor makes a 20 per cent profit as he sells the book to a bookdealer, the book is brought back to its original price, $3.50.

Changing that into the Jordanian currency, with the dollar valued at 370 fils, the book will cost JD 1.300. With a 30 per cent profit, the book should be offered to customers for JD 1.690.

The same calculation goes for a book that has the price of £3.50 set by publishers in the United Kingdom. Changed into the Jordanian currency, it should be priced as JD 2.460.

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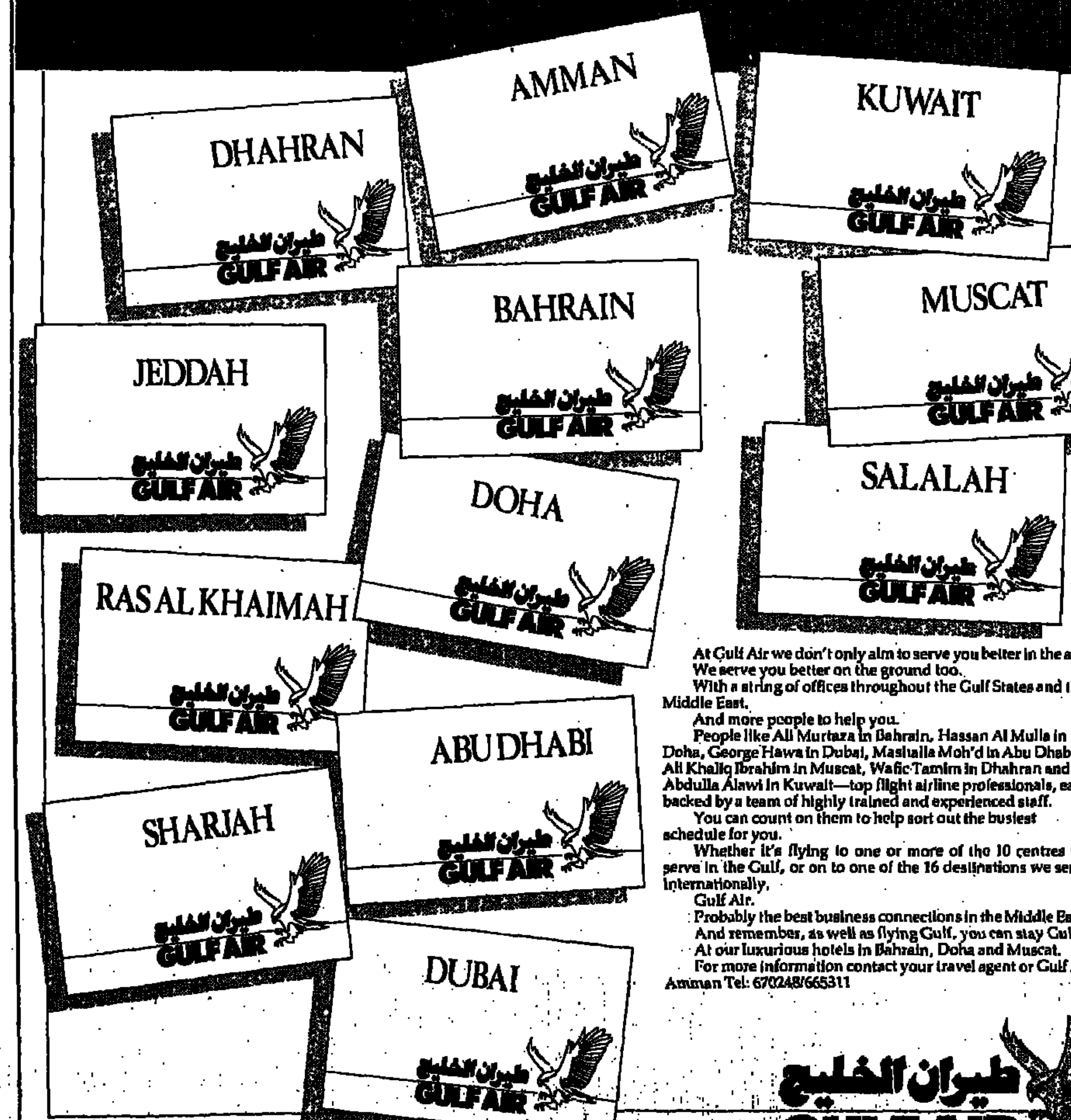

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COMMENTARY

Oil find: benefits against losses

THE STIR that has been raised by reports of a commercially exploitable oil find in eastern Jordan is testimony to the power that 'black gold' holds over our hearts and minds. The mere idea of its availability has sparked endless speculation in the press and elsewhere, and was important enough that the prime minister's speech on the subject received prominent front-page coverage the next day. All this happened despite the fact that we have known for many years that there is petroleum under the Jordanian desert sands, and that drillers have been working in the Azraq area since the earliest days of the kingdom.

Explorations are still far from showing that Jordan's oil is abundant enough, or easily enough retrieved, to take the place of imported crude. After all, if it costs more to pump Jordanian oil to the surface and get it refined than to buy it from Saudi Arabia, then there is no particular advantage to its use — for the time being, at least. In obtaining favourable reports on its quality and refinability we have come one step closer to knowing that Jordan's oil may be a bonanza. But what comes next?

If further investigation does prove that Jordan is a good candidate to join the exclusive club of Arab oil producers, then there are great pitfalls ahead. Saudi Arabia and other petroleum countries on the Arabian Gulf learned, during their early years of economic and political growth, that it can be a mistake to give too much sway to foreign companies in the search for exploitation of one's resources.

Those firms, in particular the American ones, in the early days often obtained concessions at incredibly low prices, considering the benefits they reaped later. While they pumped more and more Arab oil, and while up through the end of the 1960s the price they paid for it actually decreased in real terms, the Arabs got the short end of the stick. It was only after a painful re-adjustment, that the Americans accepted the fact that they could not go on dictating prices. And still, the benefits that oil brings to the countries in which it is found depend largely on what other countries or companies will allow.

Jordan has managed to avoid some of those dangers by keeping the responsibilities and privileges of foreigners who help it in its investigations well-defined. But if we become an oil-exporting country, then by definition that will put us at the mercy of the market forces outside. We should not place too much dependence on what such a windfall might bring us, for short-term gains may lead to long-term losses.

JD 32m for roads during '84

Highway network due to finish in 1986

By Hamdan Al-Haj
Star Staff Writer

AMMAN — Jordan's national highway system will take shape by 1986, says Minister of Public Works Awni Al-Masri. It is in that year that the ministry hopes to complete wide-ranging work that is now in progress, both to improve major roads and to develop secondary and village roads throughout the country.

To that end, Mr. Masri said in an interview with The Star, the ministry plans to spend around JD 32 million during 1984 — half of it from treasury funds and half from international development loans. He denied a local press report that this year's projects would complete the national highway system plan.

The budgeted funds cover the completion of road building projects that have already been started, as well as the initiation of some new ones. Among the first of the new projects will be the section of the desert highway from Ma'an to Suwaqa — a JD 18 million contract to be completed in about 18 months — the Zarqa bypass, and the road from Zarqa to Mafraq and the Syrian border: a three-year project that will cost about JD 16 million. Tenders have already been received for these roads, which are to be four-lane dual carriageways with limited-access exchanges.

Another new project is the Zarqa-Sukhna-Jerash road, which is a two-year, JD 7 million undertaking. Another JD 5 million will be spent during 1984 on various village and secondary roads which will be built and improved throughout the year. Some of the new ones in this category include a road to serve the new phosphate mines at Shidiya in the far south, and a road linking the South Cement Company plant at Rashadiya with the desert highway.

Dual carriageway network

The road from Amman to Na'our and beyond to the Dead Sea will be improved as a four-lane higway. This part of an overall network linking Jerash, Amman, Na'our, the Dead Sea and Irbid with highways; the plan's designs will be finalised in 1984. Another new road and bypass, linking Aqaba with the south coast, will be completed in two years at the cost of JD 12 million.

However, besides road construction, extensive design and study work is under consideration for the improvement of the remaining highway network. Projects that are expected to arise out of this process include the upgrading of the Ma'an-Aqaba route as a four-lane high-

Continued on page 7

JVA prepares to issue water network tenders

By Star Staff Writer

AMMAN — More than 60 companies have applied to be prequalified for tendering in the Jordan Valley Authority's (JVA's) bulk water distribution scheme for Amman and the surrounding region. Tenders will be invited soon and the JVA hopes to complete the project by early 1985, says Dr. Mohammad Bani Hani, the JVA official in charge of the project.

The new contracts arise out of a large project already under way, in which the JVA is building a pipeline from the East Ghor Canal at Deir Alla in the Jordan Valley to a 246,000-cubic-metre terminal reservoir outside Amman, between Suweileh and Wadi Seer. This project, which includes several pumping stations and treatment plants, will lift 45 million cubic metres of water a year to supply towns and villages between the Wadi Walla and the Zarqa River — including Amman, Zarqa, Salt and Madaba. This main pipeline is scheduled for completion at the beginning of 1985.

The JVA's designs call for installation of a mains network linking the towns in the project, and forming a loop around Amman. Ninety-three kilometres of pipe will be used, with diameters ranging from 400-1,000 mm: mostly ductile iron and steel pipes. Two pumping stations and four concrete reservoirs will be built. The pumphouses, at Abu Nuseir and Zay, will have capacities of 200 litres/second and 10 litres/second, and power requirements of 335 kilowatts and 30 kilowatts, respectively. The reservoirs will be in Salt, Fuheis, Malhas (1,000 cubic metres each), Madaba and Abu Nuseir (4,000 cu. m. each). Distribution of water throughout most of the system will be by gravity from the terminal reservoir, which is at the relatively high altitude of 1,032 metres.

Asked why the JVA was handling a distribution scheme and not the Amman Water and Sewerage Authority (AWSA) or the Water Supply Corporation (WSC), Dr. Bani Hani pointed out that the different authorities are co-ordinating their work. JVA's responsibility is solely for the bulk provision of water to towns — for instance, the new Abu Nuseir housing estate where no other provision has been made — while WSC or AWSA will take charge of distribution to individual clients. WSC will also extend a pipeline from the Abu Nuseir reservoir about 40 kilometres to a number of villages further north.

JVA will start analysing the prequalification documents "soon", he said, and then will move on to the tendering stage. He said that local contractors would be eligible for the reservoir construction jobs only, while the other work would go to foreigners. Design work in the scheme has been done by the US' Stanley and Boyd consulting engineers, who also provided consultancy services for the Deir-Alla-Amman project.

Financing arrangements for the distribution contracts are not yet finalised, Dr. Bani Hani said, but they may be paid for by a combination of government budget funds and assistance, possibly from Saudi Arabia. He did not estimate the project's total cost, but said they hope to have the network completed in time to start operations along with the main pipeline early next year.

Financial Market Report

Settling accounts

By Mamdouh El-Ghaly

THE SHARP fluctuations in handling and prices during this week were not the result of supply and demand as much as a reflection of settlements of last year's accounts. The large decrease in share prices was due to the deduction of dividends from the market value of shares. On this basis, what happened in the market was natural. The net increase in share prices that happened on 21 December 1983 has been swallowed by the decrease that happened earlier.

About 1.45 million shares were handled during this week, at a market value of JD 3.35 million divided among 2,500 contracts: an increase of 36.2 per cent compared to last week. The daily handling average came to JD 670,000, with a deviation of 93.2 per cent around this average, (18.6 per cent of the total value of market business). This huge devination figure does not represent actual disturbance in the market. Again, it represents settlements from last year.

Banks

The banks sector had 65.9 per cent of the market's total handling, a decrease of 7.6 points compared to last week. Within this sector five out of 16 banks had 84.2 per cent of the sector's business or 55.6 per cent of the market total. National Bank of Jordan had 57.2/37.7 per cent; Bank of Jordan 10.8/7.1 per cent; Jordan Securities Corporation 7.8/1.6 per cent; Islamic Bank 4.5/3.0 per cent, and Jordan-Gulf Bank 3.9/2.6 per cent.

Industry

Industrial shares accounted for 21.6 per cent of the market's business, an increase of 4.3 points compared to last week. Within this sector five out of 33 companies had 51.9 per cent of the sector or 11.2 per cent of total. Jordan Petroleum Refineries had 20.3/4.4 per cent; Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing 11.5/2.5 per cent; National Steel Manufacturing 7.6/1.6 per cent; Jordan Phosphate Mines 6.8/1.5 per cent, and Dar Al-Dawa for Development and Investment 5.7/1.2 per cent.

Services

The services sector had 7.1 per cent of total; a slight increase of 0.6 points. Two out of nine services companies 60.1 per cent of sector or 4.2 per cent of total: Arab Investment and International Trade with 37/2.6 per cent, and Jordan Electric Power Company with 23.1/1.6 per cent.

Insurance

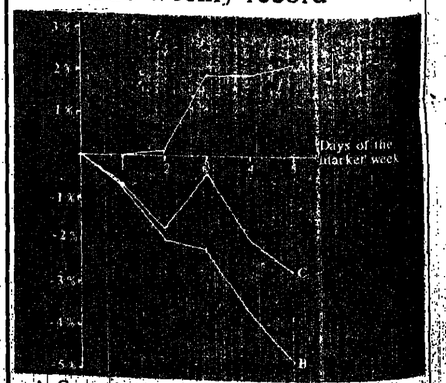
The insurance sector had 5.4 per cent of the market, an increase of 2.7 points. Two out of 12 companies had 55.9 per cent of sector or 3 per cent of total: Jordan-French Insurance with 33.8/1.8 per cent and Jordan Insurance Company with 22.1/1.2 per cent.

The shares of 70 companies were handled, this week. Price declines greatly outnumbered advances, 47-11. Prominent gainers included Holyland Insurance, closing at JD 1.350 up from JD 1.310; and the Industrial Development Bank at JD 1.700 up from JD 1.670.

Twelve companies showed no change in their share prices.

The Star price index at closing time came to 317.3, a decrease of 11 points or 2.9 per cent from last week. In the over-the-counter market about half a million shares were handled, at a market value of JD 377,000.

The weekly record



A. Companies showing an increase in stock prices

B. Companies with a price decrease

C. The mean record figure

Questions on the World Bank

By Chinwelzu

If the World Bank can get away with imposing its own model of economic development on Third World countries it is because leaders are too weak or civil servants too inefficient. This is the conclusion of Nigerian economist Dr. Kalu I Kalu after eight years in the World Bank.

EIGHT YEARS with the World Bank taught Nigerian economist Dr. Kalu I Kalu to question some of the beliefs surrounding the role of the bank and other international institutions involved in development.

Observation of successful development strategies has convinced him of the crucial role of national leadership in the success or otherwise of a country's development.

"From my experience at the World Bank, I think it is giving too much credit to them or the IMF to say that they foster development: I do not believe that development can be fostered externally. I believe that technical know-how, managerial know-how, or principles that have succeeded in other areas, can be adapted with financial assistance.

"Supplying a blueprint, or prescribing a set of policies for total development, is hardly overdone by the World Bank. What it does is to describe what in fact is going on in a country, write a report, make criticisms and suggestions. In many countries where the leadership is weak, it is easy for the World Bank to go beyond that and begin to prescribe paths of growth, paths of development. But often enough the leadership is too uninformed, or too weak to realise this.

"I think the burden ultimately still lies with the national leadership. If they know what they want, invariably they will get it. But many of them don't know what they want. If you know what you want to do, no World Bank staff should be in any position to say you can't do that."

It sounds well in theory, but what of the widespread belief that the bank and the IMF are agents imposing the will of Washington and London on Third World countries? There were, he agreed, a number of cases in which one could see "a more obvious link" between the policy of Washington or Whitehall and certain decisions by the bank or the IMF, but he stressed that such cases are "few and far between". They do not typify policy in general, though they have come to characterise the reputation of both institutions.

Most of Kalu's time with the World Bank was spent in East Asia, a region which includes some of the Third World's outstanding development success stories. What did his observations of countries like Taiwan, Singapore and South Korea teach about the nature of their success? His reply was unequivocal.

"Strong leadership is one of the things that clearly marked all those who have succeeded. Those societies that appear to have evolved a leadership able to set goals that their people could identify with; those countries that were lucky enough to get the leadership that inspired the imagination of the people, either by example or by focusing on the greatness of the nation, past or potential; those societies that were able to sublimate those attributes that are so divisive — like areas of origin, religion, beliefs. These appear to have succeeded better than those who were not able to mobilise their people."

There were other common factors Kalu cited. They have all had a longer period of formal and informal education and so were operating with a higher level of manpower than many Third World countries. "They were ready to take advantage of the withdrawal of Japan from the more labour-intensive industries such as textiles, shoes, leather, wood products. They were able to move into these areas to generate growth and employment, which in turn provided resources to improve the villages.

"It compelled the need to institute fairly organized modes of production at all levels. These building blocks have a force of their own, and society begins to believe in itself, begins to create a population that can produce by mastering its own environment. It then has a chance to generate self-sustainable growth.

"Societies able to get that sort of leadership succeeded. They became more productive in time and material. In addition, these societies saved by being the most frugal. For example, Korea was exporting colour televisions to the US but you couldn't buy one locally for a long time."

Kalu commented on a criticism commonly aimed at these countries. "You could question the system of power and its relationship to the individual's freedom of choice, perhaps. It may not be consonant with the western sense of freedom, but they found other objectives, and were working toward these. In terms of economic organization, they were able to define objectives and try to achieve those objectives. They also had sympathisers who aided them — Japan, the US, the World Bank, European countries."

In contrast, Nigeria's development strategy was "poorly articulated and even more poorly implemented."

"Defining a development strategy requires, as a minimum condition, focus on a set of objectives. We have talked about objectives (in Nigeria), but never about development strategies. The plan writers have used the word 'strategy', but I don't think you will see it in its proper context in any of the development plans. Strategy implies taking account of all your resources and deploying them over time to attain given objectives. We have never done that."

But isn't it, in the end, just a question of time? Many Nigerians, at least, are convinced that given time development is inevitable. How does Dr. Kalu see the future, given Nigeria's current development planning? "Time alone is not the answer. There is no logic that says over time you will improve.

"Nigeria is, in fact, a good example of where, over time, we have deteriorated in many areas. It is quite possible that we may never be developed. Most of Nigeria's 'development' consists of what we have been able to transfer from outside, primarily finished products from foreign countries. The overhead bridges you see everywhere, the cars you see everywhere, the conspicuous consumption you see everywhere, really reflect the state of the outside economy. The domestic economy has had, at best, a marginal improvement.

"It is possible, if the resources to acquire these foreign improvements run out, that we may remain at this level, or deteriorate, as installed capital is consumed, not maintained or reinforced by additional investment. I cannot say that in 100 years from now, things will be 'more developed'. We may have more foreign gadgets and be choking ourselves with them, but in terms of development — the improvement of the country's productive capacity — we may not have accomplished much."

One way to change this — and a crucial one given the bureaucratic and academic dominance in Nigeria's economic planning — is, he agreed, the 're-education' of economists, academics, and bureaucrats as well as the politicians they serve and the general public, whose expectations and demands are all part of the development process. The education that shaped the thinking of such people — as well as at least a "contributory factor" in devising development plans with objectives but no strategy for achieving them. "What is needed is a more inward-directed socialisation process that will enable Nigerians, indeed Africans, to master their environment with selective but proven scientific tools of modern technology."

South/Third World Media

What is the World Bank doing for me?

Refinery to award contract

• THE JORDAN Petroleum Refineries Company (JPRC) will announce within two weeks its choice of a supplier for fuel oil and diesel fuel to the Zarqa refinery. A JPRC official told The Star that about 10 bids had been received by the closing date on 19 December. He did not say what firms had bid, however. The company's board of directors will meet during the coming week and a decision will be announced soon thereafter.

The JPRC had asked tenderers to bid on the basis of delivery of 100,000 tonnes of fuel oil and/or 60,000 tonnes of diesel to Zarqa. Means of transport were left open to the bidders. The products are needed to help meet a temporary deficiency in supply before the refinery reaches full capacity of 12,000 tonnes a day under the new expansion project.

Aqaba Railway seeks axles

• TENDER No. 18/83, Aqaba Railway Corporation: Axles and wheels for trucks. Details upon payment of JD 80 from the corporation headquarters in Ma'an. New Closing Date: 14 February

Deioniser for power plant

• AUTOMATIC deioniser for water treatment at the Karak power station: Details upon payment of JD 10 from the Jordan Electricity Authority, main building at Seventh Circle. Closing Date: 4 February.

Swimming pool works

• MECHANICAL works at a swimming pool in Zarqa: Details upon payment of JD 20 from the Royal Jordanian Armed Forces headquarters. Closing Date: 10 January.

University building and supplies

• TENDER No. 118/83, for construction of a student dormitory, and No. 117/83, for cafeteria tableware. Details for JD 40 and JD 5 respectively from the university's tenders secretary. Closing Dates: 23 and 9 January.

Municipal building

• CONSTRUCTION: One-floor municipal building in Al-Qasr. Area 340 square metres. Details upon payment of JD 10 from the municipality. Closing Date: 5 January

Supply tenders

• YARMOUK UNIVERSITY: Tenders for a microcomputer, surface grinding machine and 40-seat bus for handicapped students. Three separate tenders. Details free of charge from the university's Irbid office or the Amman liaison office. Closing Date: 11 January

• SAFETY SHOES and gloves: for the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company. Details from the firm's supply department, upon payment of JD 10. Closing Date: 1 February.

• PIPES; SHEETS and sanitary material: Details from the Royal Jordanian Air Force purchasing committee, Closing Date: 14 January

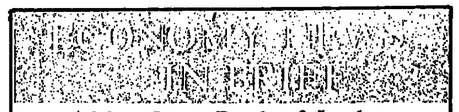
• INSECTICIDE: Four tonnes, for Zarqa Municipality. Details upon payment of JD 10 from the municipality. Closing Date: 25 January.

Public Works develops roads

Continued from page 6

way; and upgrading of the Rajif-Wadi Araba road, the Suweileh-Salt-Zay-Jordan Valley road and the backbone corridor linking North and South Shuneh in the Jordan Valley. A design will also be completed for the remaining section of this road, up to the Syrian border.

Other design work is concentrating on an outer ring road around Amman (connecting Juweideh with the Zarqa bypass and continuing to Yajouz), Abu-Nuseir-North Baq'a; Mafraq-H5; Irbid-Ajloun-Deir Abu Said; Shtafeina-Khirbet Al-Wahadneh; Irbid-North Shuneh; Irbid-Jerash-Amman; completion of the Rahab- Yarmouk University road and upgrading of the Umm Al-Amad-Madaba road. In addition, "a complete study and redesign of all existing village roads for the coming five-year plan, with road inventory and road maps, are in process," Mr. Masri said.



$30m from Bank of Jordan

• THE WORLD Bank has approved a $30 million loan to finance energy development in Jordan. Repayable in 17 years, including a four-year grace period, the loan will be used to "increase electric power distribution in the country and improve petroleum exploration," the bank said. Algeria is to receive a $128 million loan for the expansion of its telecommunications network. The five-year project will cost $312.4 million, with Algeria providing $184.4 million.

Africans seek customs accords

• MEMBER STATES OF THE Preferential Trade Area (PTA) — an economic alliance of eastern, central and southern African black nations — have agreed to "easy the way for simpler and common customs arrangements" among themselves. At the end of a summit of their heads of state and government, the PTA indicated they would achieve the objective by amending a protocol on transit and trade facilities. The summit also agreed to establish a common list of proposed tariff and non-tariff reduction for the PTA.

Egypt increases Suez tolls

• EGYPT HAS increased tolls charged on vessels traversing the Suez Canal by an average of 2.6 per cent. For those vessels up to 5,000 tonnes the increase will be 6 per cent and for ships in the 5,000-20,000-tonne category the rise will be 4 per cent. There will not be any increase for vessels over 20,000 tonnes. Egypt defends these rises by stating that despite world inflation the increases are small.

New pepsi plant in Egypt

• PEPSI CO INTERNATIONAL has inaugurated a bottling plant in the industrial zone of Port Said. The plant, to produce Pepsi-Cola beverages, is located on a 20,000-square-metre site. The $11 million facility has a daily capacity of 30,000 cases, or 6 million cases a year, with gross annual revenue of $13 million. The plant employs 300 workers and is to service the Suez Canal, Sinai, Damietta and the Eastern Delta areas of Egypt.

Sabic expands projects

• SAUDI BASIC Industries Corp. (Sabic) has set up offices in London and Hong Kong for the purpose of marketing its plastics early this year. Closer to home, the Saudi state-owned holding company has set up two marketing subsidiaries based in Riyadh and a distribution network. Through the Saudi Petrochemical Co., its joint venture with Shell Chemical of the US., Sabic plans to build two or three carriers for shipping petrochemicals. In addition, the company has leased two storage depots in Rotterdam and Singapore, with plans for others. Sabic plants will be producing 1 million tons of ethylene and its derivatives, and 1 million tons of methanol by 1985, about two-thirds of which will be exported. Western companies will have the chance to handle at least half of these exports in partnership with Saudi companies throughout the 1980s.

New firms boycotted

• THE ISRAEL Boycott Office in Kuwait has added Thais Gems of Belgium, Triumph International of West Germany, National Plastics Group of Britain and its parent company, Courtaulds Ltd., and Eaton's of Canada Ltd., to the boycott list. The ban on Miles Laboratories Inc. of the US and its subsidiary, Miles Pharmaceuticals, is being upheld.

• AUSTRIA sold $1.01 billion worth of goods and services in 1982 to the Arab World and purchased $915 million worth of oil and other products in return, thus registering a $100 million trade surplus. According to the Society of Austrian-Arab Relations, the surplus was higher last year (1983) with Austrian Exports in the first six months running into $474 million against imports of $321 million. In 1975 Austrian exports to Arab states amounted to $274 million while the value of exports was $363 million, a $90 million surplus for the Arabs.

Abu Dhabi gas reserves for 400 years

• KNOWN GAS reserves of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi are expected to last another 400 years, according to the latest studies on world gas reserves. The United Arab Emirates' natural gas reserves are much higher now than estimated earlier this year, according to UAE Petroleum Ministry sources, who disclosed that a second well was being drilled in the Hamidyah region of the Emirate of Ajman. Abu Dhabi, with estimated gas reserves of over 6.3 billion cubic metres, ranks as the fourth largest potential producer of gas in the Middle East, after Algeria, Saudi Arabia and Iran. It possesses almost three per cent of the entire gas reserves of the world, the studies report.

South Koreans to build Saudi plant

• A CONTRACT worth $402.87 million for building a petrochemical plant in Jubail was signed here between the Saudi Arabian Basic Industrial Corporation (Sabic) and a consortium of South Korean companies. Abdul-Aziz Al-Zamil, Saudi Minister of Industry and Electric Power, and Sabic Chairman, said 85 per cent of the capital costs would be borne by Sabic and the rest by the contractors. Scheduled to go onstream in early 1986, the plant will use raw materials produced locally and its production of phenyl chloride will be utilised in manufacturing plastic pipes and electric cables.

Decolonising the economy — Part I

Northern attitudes dominate

By Chinweizu

IN HIS 'Discourse on Colonialism', Afro-Caribbean poet Aime Cesaire warns against solutions prepared in advance by imperialism, into which the lives of the colonised are then stuffed. Leon Damas, another Caribbean poet and a co-founder with Cesaire of the 'negritude' movement, also warned against theories which the colonisers salt to the taste of their needs. Despite such warnings — which are perhaps nowhere more pertinent than in economic matters — theories derived from northern experience and solutions catering to northern interests have been allowed to decide the economic fortunes of the Third World.

In the current search for a New International Economic Order neo-Keynesian doctrines and neo-Marxist theories of dependency dominate the approaches. They have narrowed the range of the search to the terms and amounts of foreign aid, foreign investment and technology transfers from the rich to the poor countries, and to the social and economic ends to which these might be deployed.

Before this, the search for aims and means for national development in the Third World had degenerated into a confrontation (between neo-classical economists and Marxists) about the free market v. state planning, capitalism v. socialism, social reform v. revolution, growth v. development. Thus, northern schools of thought have consistently set the framework within which Third World economic policies have been devised.

The secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, Adebayo Adedeji, noted: "The very strategies of development the African governments have been pursuing since independence have come from outside, derived as they were from theories of economic development that were developed during the colonial and neo-colonial periods to rationalise the colonial pattern of production in Africa. Not unexpectedly, these foreign theories of development and economic growth reinforce the economic dependence of Africa."

Thus, behind Africa's failure at development lies a poverty of economic thinking created, at least in part, by inappropriate theories imported from the North — and as in Africa, so in the other parts of the so-called developing world.

The Third World obviously needs to develop its own tradition of economic thought, based on its history and its philosophies of life and society. This means that it needs its equivalents of Quesnay, Adam Smith, Ricardo, Karl Marx — pioneering economic philosophers who will analyse Third World experiences and supply theories which can provide answers to practical economic problems.

Among other things, this development will require detailed study of whatever body of Third World economic thought there may already be. In addition, the superficial unities upon which the Third World negotiating coalition has been based, will need to be de-emphasised. For, despite their common condition of underdevelopment, and their basic dependency relationship to the international capitalist system, Third World countries differ considerably in their economic characteristics and potential.

A preliminary classification would recognise the following groups:

• Large nations, with diverse resources, which could develop with minimal linkages to other economies such as China and India;

• Medium-sized and small states which are optimising their advantages and becoming specialised units within the international capitalist and socialist systems. These include the Opec nations, and such newly industrialising countries (NICs) as Taiwan, Singapore and the two Koreas;

• Least developed countries (LDCs), which lack most of the endowments necessary for economic viability, and constitute the basket cases which have been referred to as a Fourth World;

• The other nations which, though not as advantaged as the NICs or the Opec states, are not as desperate as the LDCs. With a bit of luck and astute management, some could imitate the NICs or the Opec countries; and with a bit of ill luck and mismanagement others would follow the LDCs into the Fourth World.

Given such different groups, differences are inevitable in the development aims and strategies open to various Third World countries. If development studies are to provide fruitful strategies for specific countries, various other changes in economic thinking would be necessary.

First, we would have to shunt aside the tired issues, ineffectual assumptions, jaded themes and unproductive habits of thought which have been taken over from intra-northern debates. For instance, the ideological debate between free marketeers and state planners would have to be transformed into the practical question of what, in a given culture and economy, would be best left to the market to regulate, and what best planned by bureaucrats. Similarly, the tired issue of economics versus political economy would have to be replaced by the far more useful view that economies are aspects of socio-cultural evolution, and should be approached as such.

Second, we would have to be constantly on the alert for false panaceas peddled to us by northern interests. Theories, frames of reference, and even detailed recommendations like that for technology transfers, would have to be subjected to tests of appropriateness. As with the Green Revolution the hidden agendas of northern recommendations would have to be probed as a routine matter.

Third, we would need to understand the various economies of the world and their historical evolution. We would need to discover not only how and why some have succeeded at development, but also how and why others have failed. And the more cases we know thoroughly, the better our understanding of development processes and strategies. For instance, the determination of a national leadership, and its ability to manipulate its internal and external environment, could make all the difference between successful development and failure.

Fourth, we must look for fresh concepts of development, and for strategies for implementing them in the context of a given country's endowments, aims and opportunities. In this quest, it would be invaluable to build upon groundwork already done by such theorists and pioneers of self-reliance as Gandhi, Mao and Nyerere. An existing point of departure should make it easier to develop an alternative tradition.

Despite the increasing frequency with which Third World leaders and economists now invoke self-reliance, it remains a slogan from the wings of the arena. Economic thoughts and policies continue to be formulated under the hegemony of northern theories and ground rules. This is partly because of the globalist and internationalist biases of the theories (a bias now inculcated in most of the Third World elites), and partly because self-reliance, though a catchy slogan, has yet to be made into a theory from which economic policies are readily derived. But a theory of self-reliant development is urgently needed.

If the negotiations for a New International Economic Order should fail to produce development in the Third World, what then? If the international capitalist system should disintegrate or contract and abandon all the countries it has no further use for, what would the discarded nations do?

Left to their own devices, discarded countries would have no choice but to embark upon self-reliant development. If they wanted any development at all. They would then have to redefine their problems of development, not in terms of global systems or world market relations but in local and regional terms. Self-help themes like Gandhi's concept of 'swadeshi' and Mao's stress on 'tzu li kong sheng' would then become inescapable.

In preparing for that time, a theory of economic self-reliance must raise and answer some vital questions. For instance: What are the systemic conditions for economic self-reliance? Is there, perhaps, some minimum size without which an economic unit cannot develop in a self-reliant way. Are there ecological, cultural and resource endowment conditions which must be met? What structures are necessary for weaving the requisite endowments into a self-reliant system? What kinds of leadership are most conducive to self-reliant development? What would it require to initiate a self-reliant economic dynamic when all the necessary conditions are satisfied?

If Third World leaders and economists tackle such questions, the principal barriers to the decolonisation of the Third World mind would be breached.

Decolonising the Third World economy is a task which has barely begun. But it must be done if the Third World is not to continue to flounder in misery.

(South/Third World Monitor)

middle east

Khomeini sends Iranian boys to war front

THERE HAVE been several reports of Iranian boys being sent to the frontlines of the Gulf war. These inexperienced and poorly armed boys are forced into the war on the orders of the Iranian authorities. A humanitarian organization called Anahita has taken it upon itself to stop this practice. Recently The Star Geneva correspondent Carrie Nelle Thompson interviewed the leader of Anahita, a woman who is known by the pseudonym "Irandohte" meaning "daughter of Iran". She spoke about the conditions of the boys in Iran and those captured in Iraq.

FOR REASONS of personal safety Irandohte cannot reveal her true name. She has many family members still living in Iran, including her mother, father, sisters and brothers. Nor will she reveal the school at which she studied from the age of 15 in the US — or even the subject — for she feels either could lead to the revelation of her identity. But she studied in a field that gave her the necessary background to work with children, and her specific interest became children of her own country.

Returning to Iran after her schooling, she fled her homeland after what she terms "the so-called revolution" and spent time in London, Paris, and now Geneva. Last year she was contacted by "a group of concerned Iraqi women" and told of the imprisonment of young Iranian boys, ages 13-18, who had been either induced, kidnapped, sold or given by religiously fanatical parents to be used in the Iranian army. "At first I simply could not believe it was really happening, but I went to Iraq in January (1983) and saw for myself and talked with these young boys. It breaks my heart"

Irandohte has just returned from her second visit to the same camp, and this is her story. Last January she saw 200 children. In December she counted 420. She has talked personally, in-depth to 40, and they speak basically of the same experiences, with sad variations. She found them to be from the lower socio-economic strata of Iranian society and in many cases they were orphans. These were the ones who spoke of being kidnapped.

Irandohte patiently explains that Khomeini ("not a disciple of a God but a disciple of the devil") has decreed that at age 13 a child in Iran no longer has to adhere to the wishes of parents, so the child is free to choose to "volunteer" for the army. She tells of interviewing an Iranian man who had been captured and who told of his peculiar role in the recruitment of those volunteers.

"Imam Zaman is the 12th Imam and in our Shi'ite Muslim religion, the 12th Imam will come back to save the world. This prisoner like many other men, according to him and confirmed by some of the boys I interviewed — dressed up in a green costume and rode a white horse (the general conception of Imam Zaman) and went from school to school telling the children they should give their lives and become martyrs for Iran by joining the army." In all cases, whether recruited by "Imam Zaman" or not, the boys were told that at the moment they sacrificed their lives by detecting a mine (destroying it and themselves at the same time) Imam Zaman would appear before them.

The Imam impersonator Irandohte interviewed told of his own shame at having been a part of this deception-turned-death and said he had done it both for money and out of fear of not obeying his orders. (His pay was 8,000 tomans about $920.00 per month, a high sum in relative terms, for a soldier.)

Ayatollah Khomeini: Children at war

Orphan boys who were kidnapped told of being promised guns but of being given "sticks or rocks" and instructed to "stop oncoming tanks" by hurling the sticks, rocks and then their bodies at the tanks — if they had survived the mined fields. They were then tied together so that they might not break and run. Several also explained how on several occasions they had thrown away their "weapons" and dropped to the ground rather than hurl themselves at the tanks, only to be fired upon by one of the two Iranian soldiers who herded every 100 boys to the front lines. This was confirmed by the acting "Imam Zaman"

The boys in the prison camp are still wearing their "Uniform shirts" which display two prominent identifications. Some are denoted by one: "Martyr (boy's name) coming from group martyr (group's name) coming from city martyr (city's name)". The second identification is reserved for orphans. It reads "basidge" meaning "mobilization of disinheritance". Irandohte finds this particularly sad and dehumanizing. In addition to the identifying tee shirts, each of the boys wears a key around his neck. This key is to open the gateway into heaven and signifies the wearer is "privileged to enter paradise."

When talking with the boys, Irandohte was frustrated to learn that they willingly accepted the idea of the poor being the defenders of Iran. They told me, "religious people (the clergy) are rich people. They should not have to defend the country."

When questioned about the mentality of a people who can allow its children to be exploited in this manner, Irandohte explains that Khomeini has "brainwashed Iranians for about four years". She notes he has required everyone to cry once a day, forbidden the playing or singing of any songs. She is quick to note that of course many Iranians do not believe as Khomeini does, but that fear is a strong and controlling factor, and that where their children are concerned, "some parents protest, some are afraid to protest, some believe (children should become martyrs) and some even sell their children."

Irandohte does not know precisely how many Iranian boys have been or are in the Iranian army. According to the acting Imam Zaman there are "200,000 volunteers in the army". She deduces that since a young man is required to enter the service when he turns 18, he is no longer acknowledged as a volunteer. Thus she concludes and is afraid that these 200,000 are all boys. Of the boys sent to the front, the fake Imam says 99 per cent are killed. She further asserts, "presently there are 9,000,000 children under the age of nine in Iran. How many will be left when Khomeini is gone?"

Irandohte notes that in spite of the good care (shelter- and food-wise) the boys are receiving in Iraq, they are getting no schooling.

Jackson secures release of captured American pilot

DAMASCUS (AP) — The United States airman who has captured a month ago after his plane was shot down during a bombing raid on Syrian position in Lebanon was freed Tuesday by his Syrian captors after the Reverend Jesse Jackson made a moral appeal for his release.

The Rev. Jackson, a civil rights activist and candidate for the US presidential nomination, had met with Syrian President Hafez Assad on Monday to make a moral appeal for the release of the American flier. "We are delighted to announce that our prayers have been answered," Jackson told reporters.

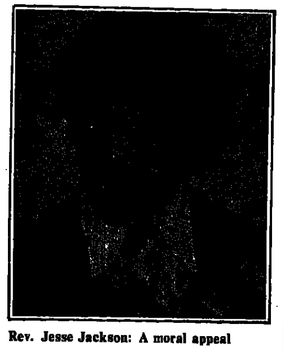
The Syrian foreign Ministry issued a statement saying it was releasing Goodman as a step to facilitate the withdrawal of American troops from Lebanon.

The Rev. Jackson called the agreement to release the airman a giant step toward peace. He said it was built upon President (Hafez) Assad's willingness to put Lt. Goodman's predicament in the humanitarian category.

In Washington, Mr. Marlin Fitzwater, deputy White House press secretary, said: "Our only statement would be that (US) President Reagan is certainly pleased by the announcement of Lt. Goodman's release. Beyond that we'll have to wait for more details."

A statement issued by the Syrian government said in part: "Answering the human appeal by the Reverend Jesse Jackson to President Hafez Assad during their meeting Monday, and also to the demands of the US government to release the American pilot Lt. Goodman, and in contribution of the Syrian government in creating circumstances that would facilitate the withdrawal of American troops from Lebanon, the Syrian government has decided to release the American pilot.

"The Syrian government hopes that the US government will take measures to end its military involvement in Lebanon, such involvement which has contributed pain and suffering to Lebanon, to the area, and to American people, and which has also increased the complications of the situation in Lebanon and in the entire area."



Rev. Jesse Jackson: A moral appeal

Goodman, whose father is a retired US air force lieutenant colonel, is the first American serviceman taken prisoner in combat since the Vietnam war. In New York City, Goodman's mother, Marilyn Goodman, was awakened by a reporter's telephone call Tuesday morning with news of her son release. "I think it's fantastic," she said. "Oh God, it's unbelievable."

Appearing at a news conference later in Damascus US ambassador to Syria Robert Paganelli refused to answer directly questions about whether Goodman would have been released without the Rev. Jackson's intervention. "We were all working for the same thing," he said. Asked the same question, Goodman answered: "I don't know. I'm sure it helped. Reverend Jackson has a great deal of respect in this part of the world."

Asked about the political effect of winning Goodman's release the Rev. Jackson said, "I have not stopped to calculate the political effect. Every moral act has political consequences. There was risk in this mission and there will be reward for the people who displayed courage and intelligence."

PALESTINE IN BRIEF

Shamir meets Arab leaders

NAZARETH — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir Wednesday met with 27 Israeli Arab leaders to hear requests for money to develop their villages. It was the first meeting with the group since Shamir took office. The chairman of the National Committee of Arab Local Councils, Ibrahim-Nimr Hussein was reported to have boycotted the meeting, saying that the organizers did not consult him.

Roadside houses to be demolished

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens said Wednesday that Israeli troops intend to demolish houses close to the highways in the Dehaishe and other refugee camps, from which he claimed Arab youngsters frequently stone passing traffic. Mr. Arens told the Knesset that the issue of compensation to the owners of the houses was being studied.

Resolution 242

NEW YORK — Israel has urged France not to go ahead with its efforts at the United Nations to amend Security Council Resolution 242. Israeli ambassador Mr. Ovadia Soffer acting on orders from Jerusalem asked for a meeting with French Foreign Minister Mr. Claude Cheysson. The ambassador was sent in following signs that France wants to revive efforts at the United Nations to introduce new wording into Resolution 242 to give expression to Palestinian national aspirations. When the initiative was first launched last year, it ran into stiff opposition from the United States.

Poor medical facilities for Beduins

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — The medical services available to the 54,000 Beduin in the Negev are "below the minimum standard to which every citizen is entitled". This was among the findings of an independent survey conducted by the Israeli Director of Polyclinic Health Services Dr. Dov Kelvin. The report said only nine doctors serve the entire Beduin population with a doctor-patient ratio of 1:6,000 in five clinics.

Sudan: Hand chopping sentence for thieves criticised

KHARTOUM — A man got drunk and, for the first time in his life, stole a car. As a result, he, along with another car-thief, became the first people in Sudan to have their right hands amputated under the new legal code.

The event has caused mixed reaction in a capital plagued by a rising crime rate but where crime is usually non- violent. Though supporters of such punishments usually cite deterrence as the main supporting argument, many believe that crime — and burglary is the main fear in most minds — will now also become more violent. Burglars who are trapped by their victims are now more likely to turn to their knives or firearms, they say. The man who risk losing a hand — and even, for major thefts, a foot as well — has less to lose by attacking and escaping, as the police record for catching criminals is none too convincing.

On the moral side, many see the punishments as going against the spirit of Islam, where pity and forgiveness are stressed. They argue that the sanction was used only seven times in the religion's first 700 years. The fact that one of the convicted was drunk has caused even more outrage.

Drinking is a well-established habit of probably a majority of Sudanese males — and last September's ban on drinking, with a penalty of 40 lashes, does not seem to have made an appreciable difference to the quantity consumed. A practice that was discreet has simply gone underground, stretching short-of-cash wage-earners farther and farther as prices creep up on the black market.

There is therefore, considerable sympathy for a man who was neither a hardened criminal nor sober at the time of his rash action. This is reinforced by the fact that lengthy and frequent explanations of the workings of the new laws in the media gave the impression to many people that an 'insecure' item such as a car would not make the person who stole it liable for amputation.

Among educated devout Muslims, there is a feeling that Islamic law- Sharia cannot be imposed on a country where social inequalities become daily more glaring. In any case, imposition is not the right way of strengthening Islam, they argue. Former Prime Minister and Ansar sect-leader El Sadiq el Mahdi was imprisoned, along with some 40 followers, for stating the case from a religious viewpoint. He believes that Islamisation should be gradual and stem from the consent of the people. Feeling also runs strong around the fact that major corruption continues unabated while petty criminals pay the price.

Sadiq Al-Mahdi

President Nimetry

A virtual news blackout was put on the first amputation ceremony, which was attended by 3,000 people. Several thousand more waited outside Khartoum Kober prison and were rewarded when the severed hands were paraded for nearly half an hour. Photographs were banned and non-Muslims, who form about a quarter of the population, were not allowed to witness the amputations. A short announcement was the only mention on the television news. The English-language Daily Bulletin however carried a gruesomely detailed but unemotional four-page report which stressed that the amputations were done with great care and under local anaesthetic. This was apparently aimed at the Bulletin's readership: the elite and foreigners.

The two prison officers who carried out the task were quoted as saying they had been specially trained in Khartoum Hospital but hospital sources denied this, saying that surgical amputation is a completely different — and much longer — operation than the minute-long chopping. Health Ministry doctors seem mainly to be disgusted by the event, which may become a regular feature as several amputation sentences have now been imposed.

(Observer News Service)

Opinion poll:

American Jews call for dialogue with the PLO

A RECENT poll commissioned by the American Jewish Committee (AJC) challenges some widespread assumptions about political attitudes of American Jews. In July and August 1983, Mr. Steven M. Cohen of Brandeis University interviewed 912 American Jews about their attitudes toward Israel.

The purpose of the poll was to determine whether or not American Jews were becoming "alienated" from Israel as a result of such recent developments as the "hard-line" posture of the Begin government, the rise to prominence of Sephardic Israelis, recurrent Jewish and Arab violence on the West Bank, the 1982 war in Lebanon, and highly publicized disagreements between American and Israeli officials.

Mr. Cohen's study included both a sample of Jewish "leaders," made up of board members of five prominent Jewish organizations, as well as a "representative nationwide sample of American Jews" chosen on the basis of their distinctive Jewish names.

Not surprisingly, the results of the poll confirm that support for Israel is extremely strong among American Jews. Eighty-six per cent of the public and 98 per cent of the leaders polled considered themselves either pro- Israel or very pro-Israel, and 78 per cent and 90 per cent respectively felt that "caring about Israel" was a very important part of being Jewish.

Despite the firm loyalty of American Jews to Israel, however, over 48 per cent of the public sample and 70 per cent of the leaders reported themselves troubled by certain policies of the Israeli government and by its relationship with the United States. Many of both samples criticized the Begin government in particular, not only for its harmful policies, but for its lack of "tact" in dealing with American officials.

Over half of each group felt that Israel should suspend the expansion of settlements in the West Bank to encourage peace negotiations, and many more (70 per cent of the public and 73 per cent of the leaders) said Israel should negotiate with the PLO if it "recognizes Israel and renounces terrorism." Fifty per cent of the public and 68 per cent of the leaders felt that the policies of the Begin government have "hurt Israel in the United States."

Obviously, American Jews feel free to disagree with official Israeli policy without slackening their commitment to the state itself.

The political implications of the AJC poll were examined in a recent Barron's Report, which pointed out that candidates for public office in the United States often view American Jews, especially politically active ones, as a monolithic block which is always "hawkish" on Israel.

According to Barron's, Democratic presidential contender John Glenn reflected this conventional assumption about Jewish attitudes toward Israel in a speech which "made a blatant appeal to pro-Israel hard-liners," a move which cost Glenn respect among moderate Jews and gentiles alike.

Barron's states that AJC's poll confirmed that stereotyping the political attitudes of American Jews is "a risky business" and that candidates would do well to avoid "conventional, cautious, no-risk approaches" to American Jews.

Another interesting result of the AJC poll was the difference it revealed between the attitudes of the American Jewish "public" and its "leaders". The latter tended to be more familiar with Israeli society and politics, partly as a result of more frequent visits to the Jewish state. In most cases, this familiarity correlated with pro-Israel political action. For example, over 90 per cent of Jewish leaders in the United States have donated directly to Israeli charities and the United Jewish Appeal, versus less than 50 per cent of the public sample; and 76 per cent have given money to pro-Israel candidates, as opposed to only 30 per cent of the public.

Although only 20 per cent of the public has written to a newspaper or elected official on Israel's behalf, a full 70 per cent of the leaders has done so.

It is significant, that those American Jews with a special interest in the Israeli state—through organizational affiliations and close personal ties—should be the most active advocates of Israeli interests in the United States. But what is surprising is that while many more leaders described themselves as "very pro-Israel," they were in this poll also much more critical of Israeli society and specific Israeli policies and much more willing to compromise with the Arabs for the sake of peace.

Focus (NAAA bulletin)

US Marines at Beirut Airport put a howitzer in a firing position

More demand withdrawal of the MNF from Lebanon

LONDON (AP) — An opposition Labour Party spokesman Monday urged the government to consider withdrawing British troops from the Lebanon peacekeeping force following a similar statement by United States Democratic presidential candidate Mr. Walter Mondale.

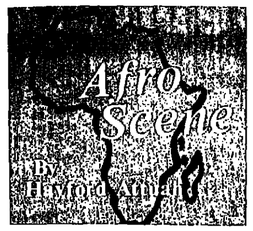
Legislator Denzil Davis, Labour's defence spokesman, said, if Mr. Mondale and former CIA directors have reached the conclusion that large numbers of American troops there are in danger, then so much more must this apply to the small British contingent in Beirut.

Mr. Denzil urged that the contributors to the 6,000-man force — the United States, Britain, France and Italy — meet for a complete re-think of policy on Labanon with a view to withdrawing the troops and allowing the Lebanese to get on with the security of their own country.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservative government has supported President Reagan in his determination to keep the Multinational force in Lebanon. Arguing against Labour's call for withdrawal, Mrs. Thatcher said last month that Britain would not be forced into leading a retreat from Lebanon. Britain has only 100 troops in Lebanon, compared to 2,100 Italians, 2,000 French and 1,800 US Marines.

Meanwhile France announced Monday that its 2,000-man contingent in the force would be reduced by about 500 men, but that the troops would be transferred to the United Nations force in Southern Lebanon. The transfer is scheduled for the end of this month.

A joint communique by the Foreign and Defence ministries said that the 482-man unit originally had been transferred from the UN force in Lebanon to the multinational force in September 1982.



Nigeria again

THE NEWS of the military takeover in Nigeria may have shocked many people especially those in Africa. The country's democratic experiment which was lauded by political observers has once again failed. This is the fifth time Nigeria's military has intervened in government to "save the country from collapse" since independence in 1960.

When Nigeria returned to civilian rule after 13 years of military administration, the soldiers promised to return to barracks for good. For a majority of Nigerians, the era of military rule ended and that of a permanent civilian administration dawned on that historic first day of October 1979.

What might have caused the return of the military once more to the Nigerian political scene could be attributed to the country's worsening economic situation for the past three years. Few countries have experienced such a dramatic reversal of fortunes as Nigeria had during this period.

Oil production fell from 2.3 million barrels per day in 1979 to 1.3 million barrels in 1983. Balance of trade collapsed from a surplus of $11 billion in 1980 to a deficit of $2.3 billion by 1983, while foreign reserves plunged from an all time high of $12 billion in 1980 to around $1 billion by 1983. Food prices took a hike, thousands of workers were laid off and life became unbearable for many Nigerians.

But what might have broken the camel's back on 31 December last year was ex-President Shehu Shagari's "austerity" budget of 29 December. Highlights of the budget were drastic cuts in government spendings and imports. Besides the budget, the government was also seeking an IMF loan of $2 billion to support the economy. This request was met with a suggestion to devalue the naira (Nigerian currency).

The new military leader Major-General Mohammad Buhari in his first broadcast to the nation accused the ousted civilian government of being insensitive to the sufferings of the people, which he said were the results of the corruption and mismanagement by government officials. He said the military had "acted in the name of economic reforms" and promised that "every effort would be made to improve the Nigerian economy".

Whatever the issues are it is unlikely that the new military administration can work to put things right in a short time. There has been a lot of military take overs in many African countries in the past two decades. In all cases, the soldiers promised "paradise" and seemed to have magical solutions for the problems of their nations. What was seen after their first year in power was nothing better than what the ousted regimes could do.

Perhaps Major-General Mohammed Buhari has been extra cautious not to have called for a "peoples' revolution" as it happened in Ghana and Upper Volta. The world is watching with anxiety what will happen in Africa's most populous nation and what until 31 December 1983 used to be the world's fourth largest democracy.

One thing the military rulers should try to prevent, is another civil war in Nigeria since that may doom the country forever.

Can the missiles ever get to Russia?

Scientists question their operational safety

By Andrew Wilson

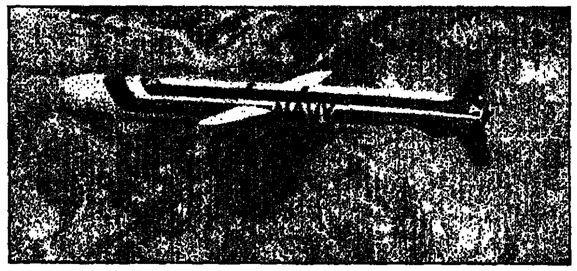
LONDON — United States ground-launched cruise missiles being deployed in Europe are under fire from technical experts on two fronts. Military critics have cast doubt on their ability to penetrate Soviet defences. Scientists and technologists opposed to the deployment have raised questions about their operational safety.

Doubts about the missiles' penetration ability arise from their lack of effective electronic counter-measures (ECM) against hostile radar. Some American experts are reported as saying this gives them less than an even chance of getting through Soviet defences.

The latest ECM device is an on-board computer programmed to confuse the target country as to the number, position and direction of missiles in flight. The computer works out the frequency and direction of the hostile radar beam, then causes distorted signals to be sent back to the hostile receiver.

Because the cruise missile is so small and flies so low, hugging the terrain, it was long felt to be safe from radar detection, but Soviet interceptor planes are now being fitted with airborne radar enabling them to 'look down and shoot down' the slower-flying cruise. ECM could be fitted to cruise, even to those already deployed, but differences of technical opinion within the Pentagon have reportedly held up the choice of design.

Moreover, it will be at least another two years before the complete system of electronic maps is available by which cruise missiles must find their way to their targets. The deployment of cruise in an operationally doubtful condition is seen by many critics as evidence that the deployment has been dictated by political rather than military considerations. Criticism of safety aspects is based on information given during US congressional hearings. This has included complaints about quality control of components during the missile's development programme.



US Tomahawk cruise missile

In February 1983 one of the largest US semiconductor manufacturers was removed from the list of approved suppliers after it admitted taking short cuts in testing military components. Litton Industries, makes of the inertial guidance system, have reported unacceptably high numbers of integrated circuits (silicon chips) arriving from the manufacturers in a condition unable to withstand moisture.

And the main contractors have been criticised for overall quality control following the failure of aerodynamic components, such as extendable stubby wings and air intakes. Such failures could cause missiles to crash close to the launch area. One missile was reported to have crashed on a test flight in the United States.

The risk of an accidental nuclear explosion from a cruise missile is considered remote. (The official design requirement is that the warhead should have less than a one-in-a-million chance of exploding during an accident.) But there is a less remote danger of lethal contamination resulting from an accident to the warhead, which is mounted next to the missile's jet fuel.

Observer News Service

New Zealand:

Muldoon's government faces a tough future

By David Garvey

WELLINGTON (Agencies) — A rebellion within the ranks of New Zealand's governing National Party is creating doubts about the ability of the Muldoon government to survive its three-year term of office.

Various groups of dissident MPs within the party's caucus have voted with the Labour opposition against government bills, and one government policy measure has been voted down. The government's problems stem from dissatisfaction with its interventionist monetary and economic policies and its attempts to curb trade union powers.

Holding a one-seat majority (without the vote of the Speaker) in the 92-member Parliament, the Muldoon Administration looks increasingly shaky. Legislation on home lending rates survived a backbench rebellion only because Mr. Muldoon was able to call on the support of two Social Credit MPs and two Independents. Having weathered that storm, he promoted legislation to eliminate compulsory membership of trade unions in situations where both employers and unions agree that union membership should be a condition of employment.

One backbencher immediately deserted the government ranks. Social Credit's two MPs voted against the government and so did one of the Independents. But the other Independent, ex-Labour man John Kirk, came to the government's rescue to save its one-vote majority. Public galleries in Wellington's parliament buildings were crowded with militant trade union supporters. They hissed Kirk when he entered the government lobbies to vote for the measure. The same legislation that ended compulsory union membership contained a clause providing for youth pay lower than existing industrial award rates, but that was defeated by three votes.

Labour leader David Lange promptly said the government should resign but Muldoon gives no sign of accommodating him. He has until November this year to call an election. In spite of wide-ranging controls, Muldoon, as minister of finance, has been unable to extract the country from its economic mess.

The nation of three million people is this year running a deficit of about $2 billion. Its unemployment rate hovers about 5 to 7 per cent. Economic predictions hold out little hope of growth of more than 3.5 per cent a year before the end of the decade. Free market advocates in Muldoon's party seem to have passed the point of accepting compromise in the interest of keeping the government in power.

Their position is supported by opinion polls which show that in the last three months a vigorously free enterprise new party started by a former National Party supporter and millionaire property developer, Bob Jones, has attracted 15 per cent of public support. The National Party still retains 41 per cent support, and Labour 37 per cent, but the prospect of an early election should not be dismissed.

IN BRIEF

- HONG KONG — Fourteen Iranians who arrived here last week on their way to Canada on forged passports were not connected to any terrorist organizations, the government reported. Officials said there was no evidence to suggest that the Iranians were on a terrorist mission as reported by some newspapers here. A spokesman said the Iranians were detained at Hong Kong's international airport last week when they arrived here from Karachi via Manila and Bangkok with forged French, Italian, West German and Austrian passports. The men had at first refused to co-operate with immigration officials but investigations had shown that they were well-educated young Iranians who had been hoping to reach Canada with intentions of persuading the authorities there to accept them.
- TOKYO — Japan's Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone has said that nuclear disarmament on the political front and protectionism in the economic sphere will be two of the world's most compelling issues of 1984. Speaking at a news conference here Mr. Nakasone disclosed that he hopes to tour Europe this year after attending the summit of industrialized nations in London. He also said he would like to visit Oceania and other parts of Asia, including the Middle East, during the year. Japan, he said, must make positive contributions toward creating an environment for the reduction of nuclear and conventional arms. The nation must also take the initiative in promoting free trade.
- WARSAW — Poland's communist leaders have signalled a possible reduction in unpopular price hikes, expected in the new year but now said to be delayed until at least February. The party's ruling Politburo said in a communique that the opposition of new official trade unions formed to replaced Solidarity and other banned unions would be taken into consideration in a modified concept of price rises in the new year.
- PEKING — The Chinese government has claimed it reduced the number of murders, rages, robberies and other crimes in late 1983 by about 40 per cent because of emergency measures enacted to smash a nationwide wave of lawlessness. "The masses feeling of security has been strengthened," said a report in the official weekly newspaper China Legal System (Zhongguo Fazhi Bao). Special decrees announced last August by the government give police more power to hunt down suspects and permit judges to order the death penalty for offenders who cause grave harm to the public.

El Salvador:

Fears of an American invasion heightens

By Geoffrey Matthews

SINCE THE United States invasion of Grenada, Latin America has become distinctly jittery that 'Operation Urgent Fury' was a mere dress rehearsal for intervention on a massive scale in Central America.

Such concern is particularly acute in Colombia, whose capital has for several months been the scene of a flurry of comings and goings by representatives of the Reagan Administration, the Sandinista regime in Nicaragua, and both the government and guerrillas of El Salvador.

The rate of such calls on President Belisario Betancur Cuartas, the driving force behind the peace initiative of the Contadora Group (in which Colombia's partners are Mexico, Venezuela and Panama), has become intense during the last four weeks. Conviction has greatly hardened here that Washington is planning major intervention in Central America and that the initial target is not Nicaragua, as long supposed, but El Salvador.

One Salvadoran visitor to the Colombian capital recently was virtually convinced that intervention will come and soon.

Mr. Mario Aguinada Carranza, a leading member of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, points out that "invading El Salvador would be much easier (than invading Nicaragua) for the United States. The government could provide the excuse for intervention. Furthermore, there is a regular army which, although in a state of crisis, would support a North American assault."

Salvadoran troops on patrol

What would be the pretext for American intervention? Mr. Aguinada suggests two equally credible scenarios. One is a coup led by former Major Roberto d'Aubuisson, leader of the ultra-right Arena Party, who is widely believed to have close ties with El Salvador's right-wing assassination squads. The other would be a complete breakdown of law and order as a result of the government's continuing failure either to check the guerrillas' military successes or curb the death squads' reign of terror.

Recent reports of the reactivation of the mutual defence pact — known as Condeca — between the armed forces of El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala have focused on the possibility of a US-inspired invasion of Nicaragua by the three. But Mr. Aguinada reports that in the last three weeks thousands of Honduran and Guatemalan troops have massed along their respective frontiers with El Salvador. He believes they would lead an invasion of El Salvador and would then be followed by American troops based in Honduras.

Certainly intervention in El Salvador must be a more attractive proposition for the American than invasion of Nicaragua. As Eden Pastora, the Nicaraguan civil war hero who later broke with the Sandinistas and has since tried unsuccessfully to mount a counter-revolutionary struggle, puts it: "In Grenada you can get in and out quickly. With Nicaragua you can get in, but getting out would be quite another matter."

United States intervention in El Salvador, Latin America's smallest and most densely populated country (five million packed into a mere 21,000 square kilometres), would probably not be opposed by the long-suffering people. While loathing their traditional repressive rulers, they have never thrown their full support behind the much-split guerrilla opposition in the way Nicaraguans united behind the Sandinista forces in the 1979 civil war.

Another recent visitor to Bogota, Mr. Richard Stone, the luckless Central American special envoy for the Reagan Administration, remained tight-lipped when President Betancur demanded to know whether the United States was indeed planning intervention on the Isthmus. Stone continues to insist that his government supports Contadora's efforts, while Colombia and its partners feel that their initiatives are only being paid lip service in Washington.

Mr. Leon Roldos, Vice-President of Ecuador, may have something when he says: "At the moment the United States thinks it can use Contadora to bring formal and traditional democracy to Nicaragua, while Nicaragua views Contadora as a guarantee against being invaded by the United States."

Observer News Service

Bangladesh:

Ershad seeks compromise with opposition leaders

Political confrontation ebbs

By Sayed Kamaluddin

DACCA (ONS) — Political confrontation in Bangladesh which appeared to be getting out of control late last year, now seems to have ebbed. The military ruler Lieutenant General Hossain Mohammad Ershad, who assumed the post of president on 11 December has reportedly reached an understanding with the main opposition parties to sort out the political issues.

The military regime reimposed its ban on all political activities, which was lifted only on 14 November, nineteen months after the proclamation of martial law rule, following an outbreak of violence in the capital, Dacca, on 28 November. This development has upset the regime's efforts to steer a peaceful course to presidential and parliamentary elections and return to civilian rule.

The contention of the opposition's five-point demand as a way of restoring democracy was the parliamentary elections should be held before any other elections. This conflicted with the government's decision to hold presidential elections on 24 May and parliamentary elections on 25 November this year. Both sides were adamant — the government not taking the opposition's threat seriously — eventually leading to violence and an imposition of curfew in Dacca on 25 November and when it spread further, in Chittagong two days later.

It appeared then that Bangladesh was heading for crisis. Fortunately, the opposition in its eagerness to prove the government's charge wrong that the opposition was trying to forestall the 14th Islamic Conference of foreign ministers, scheduled from 6 to 10 December, and defame the government, announced a unilateral moratorium on movement during the period and saved the situation from further deterioration. They did so in their own interest and to retain their credibility as the supporters of Islamic Ummah (solidarity).

Gen. Ershad

The country's political movement is being spearheaded by the 15-party alliance, led by the Awami League and 7-party combine led by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and the two women leaders, Mrs. Sheikh Hasina Wajed, 36, president of the Awami League (and daughter of the assassinated President Sheikh Mujibur Rahman) and Begum Khaleda Zia, 38, senior vice-chairman of the BNP and the widow of another assassinated president, Ziaur Rahman, emerged as the principal leaders of the mainstream opposition.

Meanwhile, President and Chief Martial Law Administrator Ershad, in a move to respond to the demand of the opposition leaders and to create a congenial atmosphere for discussions at political level, has released all political prisoners.

Morocco's Saharan hour-glass runs low

A major offensive on Polisario fails

By Janice Turner

A MAJOR offensive by Morocco to push back the Polisario Front forces has failed, according to the deputy-leader of Polisario. Morocco denies this.

The seven-year war between Morocco and the Polisario Front is for control of the ex-Spanish colony of Western Sahara. Judging by similar exploits in Algeria in the early sixties, Morocco's continuing interest in the territory is more in the existence of rich mineral deposits in the north-west, than in controlling vast expanses of desert. Morocco now occupies only the north-west, known as the 'useful triangle', and has barricaded itself in with a defensive wall, built with American help, around this area.

More than 50 countries have recognised the Polisario Front and the 'Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic', and the OAU in June called for the two sides to negotiate directly with each other to end the war of attrition peacefully, to hold a cease-fire, and then a referendum in the territory to decide the wishes of the inhabitants.

The new move by Morocco, according to Bashir Mustafa-Sayed, the deputy Secretary-General of the Polisario Front, is as a result of Polisario attacks from their bases outside the wall, on Moroccan-held towns such as Smara and Lemsayed within it. This activity put Moroccan troops on the defensive. The new Moroccan attack on the Polisario base of Tifariti on 27 October was apparently aimed at regaining the initiative and stopping Polisario guerrillas from breaching the wall again.

According to Mustafa Sayed, after two days' fighting, Morocco withdrew back to Smara with Polisario still in control of Tifariti. A spokeswoman for the Moroccan embassy in London acknowledged that the attack had taken place, but denied that it had been a major offensive. "It was just a routine business, trying to clear up the region," she said. Bashir Mustafa-Sayed opposed this view. "They had been planning this operation for two months, amassing troops and equipment by the defensive wall." He believed that four regiments, totalling 18,000 soldiers, had been involved in the attack on the small oasis town of Tifariti which serves as a Polisario military base.

The failure of the attack is also likely to disappoint US military advisors, who have been training Moroccan troops in techniques of counter-insurgency. The most likely way forward for Morocco therefore is a political offensive. The OAU peace plan of last June contained three points: direct negotiations between Morocco and Polisario, a ceasefire, and a referendum. While Polisario accepts all three points Morocco accepts only two.

A memorandum from the Moroccan government explained the reasons for not negotiating with Polisario: firstly the OAU summit resolution number 1?? (XIX) adopted at Addis Ababa only "urges" Morocco to undertake direct negotiations. Thus by definition, says the memorandum, "it involves no compulsion."

Secondly, "international negotiations are conducted between sovereign states and international organisations... nothing and nobody can oblige one or more states, including Morocco, to speak to other interlocutors, since it is one of the attributes of its sovereignty that is at stake."

Thirdly, the memorandum went on, "The referendum would be rendered quite meaningless if those who advanced such claims..." (to sovereignty, ie. Polisario)... "were already accorded the status of sovereign state." Were direct negotiations the only sticking point, progress could possibly be made. But a second stumbling block is a controversy over precisely who should take part in the referendum. Following the Moroccan invasion of the Western Sahara in 1976, thousands of Sahrawis fled to refugee camps in Tindouf, in south-west Algeria. Here they have remained. The Polisario wants them included in the electorate. Morocco refuses. When asked about this the Moroccan embassy spokeswoman replied, "That is the crux of the matter."

Morocco has agreed to be bound by the referendum. A pro-independence outcome would be a severe blow to King Hassan and the credibility of his government's escalating Saharan adventure which has proved so economically costly to the Moroccan population.

South / Third World Media

VIEWPOINT

Leaving Lebanon all alone

By Ya'coub Jaber

IT SEEMS that the United States and Israel share a common predicament in Lebanon, and each is trying to find a way to pull out its troops with minimum loss of face. The two sides will have to withdraw in the near future, leaving Lebanon's warring factions struggling for power, with the Syrians having the major say in deciding the country's future.

The US Marines will have to be withdrawn from Lebanon in the next few months, because there is a growing opposition to their presence there inside the United States. Despite public statements by President Reagan that the Marines will stay until their "mission" is accomplished, it is highly unlikely that the president can afford to keep them in Lebanon until the Republican convention in Mid-July, when he is to seek nomination for a second term. From now until then, Mr. Reagan will continue to search for an appropriate approach that could allow him to announce the withdrawal of the Marines with the least embarassment for his administration.

The withdrawal of Israeli troops from South Lebanon within the next few months is inevitable, and will be imposed by the escalation of attacks which are taking a daily toll among the invading forces. The increasing assaults on Israeli troops will lead Israel to the point at which it would no longer insist on a simultaneous withdrawal by Syria, but would merely seek to extricate itself from the quagmire into which it was dragged by its hot-headed and short-sighted generals.

America will try to justify its own withdrawal decision by pleading that the Lebanese army has been properly built up, and can take over the Marines' positions at Beirut Airport. Israel will claim that local militias which it has set up in the south can handle the "security" situation there. If this happens, and all signs indicate that it will, Israel's invasion of Lebanon would reach the point of total failure, and America's "help" for Lebanon would become a bitter experience for both Lebanese and Americans.

Deployment of the Lebanese army in newly-vacated areas would entail bloody confrontation with opposing forces. When French troops withdrew from some of their positions in West Beirut about two weeks ago, fierce fighting erupted between the army and the Amal Shi'ite militia, causing heavy casualities among civilians. In the devastating fighting, no one achieved any gains on the ground.

What I am trying to point out is the fact that a political settlement to the Lebanese crisis should precede any attempt to extend the army's control. Neither the Druze militia nor the Amal group would allow the Lebanese army to move into areas under their control, except within the framework of a reconciliation agreement satisfying the demands of different Lebanese groups.

If the Lebanese government wants the tremendous task lying ahead of its army to succeed, it must speed up the reconciliation process and prepare well for the day when it will be left alone to tackle the country's intricate and complicated problems.

Finally, it is not only the Lebanese government that is required to take urgent steps towards reconciliation. Opposition groups should also realize that the task of re-uniting the country is a common responsibility, and that the sole alternative to reconciliation is partition and endless fighting.

Middle East Editorial Opinion

AL-RAYA, a Qatari newspaper, this week remarks that the terror campaign of Israeli West Bank settlers has reached its peak with the two explosive charges which went off last Friday in two mosques in occupied Hebron.

"Despite what is being said about the intention to freeze the building of settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza for political and economic reasons, the Zionists' basic plan of evicting the indigenous population continues to be carried out through deportation, harassment and intimidation," writes **Al-Raya.**

It also says that Muslim and Christian holy places have become daily targets for the Jewish fanatics, who hold no esteem for other religions.

Another Qatari newspaper, **Al-Arab,** writes that the Israeli crimes against houses of worship should alert the whole world to the dangers stemming from the new Zionist terror campaign. It says the forthcoming Islamic summit conference should adopt firm and practical decisions to deal with these sinister crimes.

Spreading fire

On the situation in Lebanon, the Beirut newspaper **Al-Liwa** says that it has become obvious that the continuation of the Lebanese tragedy will endanger the whole area, and the dangers must be contained. The fire must be extinguished before it spreads — not only around Arab world, but also to other parts of the world.

Another Lebanese paper, **Al-Anwar,** warns that the process of partitioning Lebanon and the region is continuing.

The paper criticises the Lebanese factions for their preoccupation with war, saying that they are unconsciously leading their country to dismemberment.

Also on Lebanon, the Kuwaiti newspaper **Al-Rai Al-Aam** writes that the Lebanese problem can only be solved by political reconciliation in the first place. But the paper remarks that the warring Lebanese factions are still in the same psychological, political and military positions. This means that nothing has changed in their motives, which have triggered the conflict — despite the progress towards reconciliation which is said to have been achieved in the Geneva conference last year.

The Kuwaiti paper goes on to say that the Lebanese army, which is now stronger than ever before, cannot be used us an effective national force unless it is first armed by a political reconciliation.

Al-Arab hails the heroic resistance against the Israeli occupation forces in South Lebanon. It says the escalating attacks on Israeli troops in the area have underlined the importance of armed struggle to liberate the Lebanese sought.

The **Gulf Times,** a Qatari English-language newspaper, criticises the United States' decision to withdraw from Unesco, saying that this decision reflects short-sightedness. The organization is not a political playground, allowing one team to react angrily in case of loss or failure, it says.

"Other countries contribute effectively to the finance of Unesco; but do not resort to the US' style in an attempting to impose their hegemony on the organization," the paper remarks.

It goes on to say that the American decision stems from indifference to the will of the world community, especially when the question involves condemnation of Israel's terrorist practices, despite the fact that this blind pro-Israeli position contradicts totally with the principles upon which the UN was founded.

'Weakness and incompetence'

On the last year's events, **Ad-Dustour** newspaper in Amman notes that during the past 12 months, the Arab world witnessed more weakness and disintegration, to an extent which impeded the holding of the Arab summit conference in due time — for the first time in 10 years. It says inter-Arab differences have led to the prolongation of the Iraq-Iran war and the escalation of the Lebanese problem. It adds that the most agonising event was the Palestinian bloodshed in North Lebanon, not only by Israel but also by some Arabs.

"The deterioration of the Arab situation has enabled Israel to step up its oppressive and expansionist practices in the occupied territory, plant new settlements and expropriate what is left of Palestinian land," **Ad-Dustour** remarks.

It concludes by saying that the Arabs, nevertheless, must move to the process of extracting the necessary lessons from the events of the past year and embark on a new course of action, avoiding the mistakes which led them to fall into weakness and incompetence.

Israeli press

In Israel, **Al-Hamishmar** comments on the presence of Jewish schools in Arab Jerusalem. It says one such religious school, called "Brakha Abraham", has "a strange collection of students with police records. Those students attract attention because of their unusual attitude and special clothes. It is true that some Arabs provoke them, but the atmosphere of violence they have created recently in old Jerusalem has exceeded all limits."

Al-Hamishmar says that during the "re-construction" of the Jewish quarter in the Old City of Jerusalem, Many Arab and Islamic properties were confiscated. One Arab applied to purchase his own house after it was repaired, but the supreme court denied him this right. Jewish groups have broken into old Arab houses in the Muslim quarter, with government support, in an attempt to drive out Arab residents.

It is the duty of the authorities to stop the yeshivas and evict them from there, the paper says. "Arab-Jewish coexistence is more important than pleasing certain groups."

On the Arafat-Mubarak meeting, **Maariv** says that after Reagan has achieved his end by saving Arafat from Tripoli he is heading towards the achievement of his second goal: "to force us to give up the occupied territories by hanging the Palestinian sword over our heads.

"Under such circumstances, the Israeli prime minister did well by informing the White House that there will never be a dialogue between us and the PLO," **Maariv** writes. "Reagan will be annoyed to know that his efforts to save Arafat went in vain; but we have no other alternative, so long as we have prevented a catastrophe."

Haaretz adds that Israel is "stunned" by Arafat's approach to Cairo. The Israeli defence minister, Moshe Arens, said that Arafat himself does not know what he is after.

It is difficult to believe that Arafat's trip to Cairo was a last-minute decision. Even so, the US Department of State described this approach as a positive development. Reagan's plan still forms the basis of the US policy in the Middle East. Therefore US officials are satisfied with the dialogue between Arafat and Mubarak, **Haaretz** says.

"The Israeli government fears the revival of Reagan's plan. If Shamir thinks that he can persuade the US administration to abandon the plan, he has to abandon Begin's interpretation of the Camp David accords.

If the Palestinian autonomy is to see light, Israel must abandon any ideas opposing Arab regional interests, the paper concludes.

Kol Ha'ir says the Arafat-Mubarak meeting created violent reactions that unveiled the actual stands of the parties involved in the Middle East tragedy. The most significant reaction was the approval of educated Palestinians from the occupied West Bank. "It appears that Palestinians are ready for dialogue with Israel, which still does not want to recognize their just rights. Many Palestinians believe that the process of peace will continue," the paper says.

The enthusiastic American response reflects the American administration's desire to reach a reasonable political settlement within the lines of the Reagan initiative, it says. "The Reagan Administration is waiting impatiently to see a joint Palestinian-Egyptian move take place, and it is ready to render support (for this) in spite of the government of Israel."

On Israel's labour problems, **Maariv** says the increasing disputes are not troubling the government, which is concentrating on solving the "strike" by Agudat Israel party. The Agudat has four Knesset members who, in Prime Minister Shamir's opinion, are more important than thousands of striking workers, it says. Those four Knesset members declared a strike by not delivering their votes; and this is a real threat to the government.

Agudat Israel has forced Shamir to stop all public transport on Saturdays. This is what he has to do to preserve his disintegrating coalition.

Hatsofeh, on the other hand, says labour disputes and strikes are legal; "but have the workers asked themselves from where the government could secure funds to respond to their claims?

"The balancing of the Israeli budget without sacrifices by the public is impossible. This reality should bind all parties, and he who is against it must lead us to a place where we can obtain dollars to respond to all demands!"

Davar says that the payment of the controversial advance cost of living rise has removed some tension and prevented a total collapse in labour relations. Now, it says, the Ministry of Finance must slash the budget.

"The current level of inflation is expected to reach 1 per cent per day. This situation will disturb everybody's balance. The soaring prices are in fact a deterioration, but the mad rise in prices add fuel to the fire and pulls the rug from under our feet."

Under these circumstances we can expect not only labour relations but also the whole social balance to be shaken, **Davar** writes.

Hamodia asserts that since Mr. Cohen-Orgad was appointed finance minister, "there has appeared hope that we are entering a new era of painful treatment and recovery.

"We do not approve of all measures taken by the minister, but his general economic policy is correct," the Israeli paper says. "The main responsibility falls on the prime minister, because without his support for the finance minister, there will be no hope of improving the economy."

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US must be careful

REPORTS FROM the United States say that President Reagan is seriously considering the option of reducing the number of American Marines in Lebanon or even calling them back altogether. Observers believe that Mr Reagan's motives will be originating from the mounting pressures on his administration from both the Congress and US allies in the West. This incident comes shortly after France and Italy — both members of the four-nation Multinational peace keeping force deployed in Lebanon — have decided to reduce the numbers of their men in the MNF.

If Mr Reagan decides to make such move so as not to threaten his chances in the upcoming US presidential elections and to avoid a possible attack against his troops in Lebanon, then he will be risking the conclusion of a peaceful settlement of the Lebanese crisis.

We are not in favour of keeping the Marines in Lebanon since they have lost their capacity as peacekeepers and become an involved party in the ongoing strife. At the same time we believe that American actions in Lebanon should not be decided from a point where it serves only the personal interests of Mr Reagan and his party. The American people have to ask Mr Reagan why he chose to involve their boys in Lebanon's bloodbath and then decided to pull them out when the Lebanese problem still exists. Mr Reagan made the United States morally responsible for saving Lebanon and securing its independence when he ordered his men to land in Beirut along with those of America's allies. Their departure should not be linked with his personal interests only, but with the achievement of the original goal, which is to stop the civil war and bring about a reconciliation among Lebanon's factions.

If the Marines were to withdraw from Lebanon today, where a political platform that allows for all Lebanese factions to come to the negotiation table and seek reconciliation has not been completed yet, then civil war and confusion will continue to haunt this unfortunate country and its people.

On the other hand, the Americans must not be foolish to allow short-lived solutions in Lebanon where the country is either divided among stronger factions or controlled by foreign ones. This too, will be defeating the purpose of America's involvement and will damage that country's credibility in this area for a long time to come.

The real issue

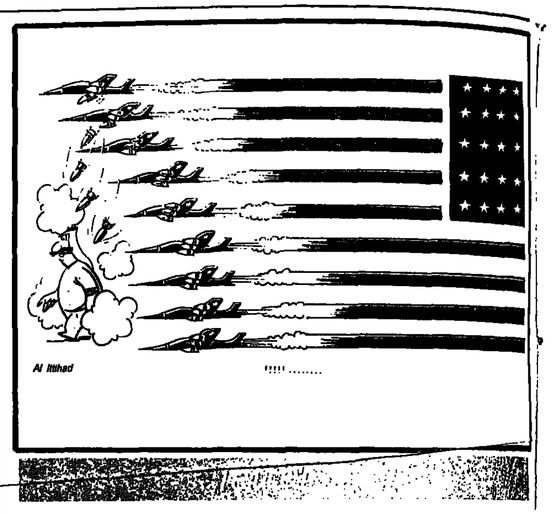
IT HAS been said many times before, and yet it still needs to be said: The core of the entire Middle East problem in all its ramifications is the Palestine issue, and at the core of that issue is Palestine itself: the land which has now been under occupation for so long.

This may seem to be a simplistic tautology, so let us explain why we are saying it and why in this manner. The Palestinian cause has become so embroiled and tangled up in rivalries, clashes of loyalty and conflicting declarations by all the parties concerned that one might be forgiven for forgetting that what is at stake is one, unified cause, and for thinking that they were arguing about some abstraction, never to be attained.

That one, unified cause that the parties concerned themselves tend to forget is, of course, saving the land. All the conflagrations, the inter-Arab rivalries, tragic killings, border disputes — however serious they may be, and however strongly they may hold the attention of the world — in reality, when it all comes down to it are a mere sideshow to the great confrontation that has been going on all along. We all profess allegiance to the cause of saving Palestine and its people, but meanwhile, as we pursue our different problems, it is slipping away from us. We may wake, one day soon, and find that there is no more land left there for us to save.

This is why it is so important to move, right now, on a road that can take us one step towards that just and lasting peace we are always talking about. Arguments over what should be the form of an Arab government in Palestine, or about who should lead the PLO, or about the legitimacy of any particular party, all take second place to that effort. There are people living there now, under a hostile occupation regime and facing the guns of fanatic settlers. If we can't do anything for those people, all our strivings may be in vain.

As His Majesty King Hussein has said, the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship is a special one, unique in its closeness and in the circumstances which require us to recognise its reality. This is why Jordan has been so insistent, and is so active at present, in trying to salvage Arab unity so that something might be done to stop the inexorable tide of de facto annexation that has engulfed the occupied Arab territories.



Truth or half-truth?

To the editor:

I am writing to protest the publication of the article entitled "Who rules the USSR?" (Number 23-29 December)

With all due respect to Mr. N.J. Kattan, who I am told has had a long and distinguished career in international affairs, I could wish that he had been much more careful with his sources and their interpretation. On the other hand, it is regrettable that The Star (which otherwise can be proud of its record of responsible journalism) chose to give such prominence and credit to his writings, which do nothing to advance the cause of democracy or of Arab rights.

Mr. Kattan's article is full of racial slurs, half-truths and outright slanders. To mention but a few, his identification of Judaism (not Zionism, but Judaism itself) as one of his supposed "secret subversive forces"; his identification of the American Defence Secretary as a "racial Jew"; his condemnation of the Soviet leader because "one of his grandparents was of Jewish parentage; and his statement that a Politburo member is "probably a Jew as his name indicates" smack of the worst sort of bigotry. Elsewhere, the sources of information used appear to be highly dubious.

I have lived in the Middle East too long not to take Arab spokesmen seriously when they talk of conspiracy and betrayal. Their people's tragic history is full of justifications for such charges. But accusations and theories such as those presented here are notorious in history. They are nothing new; and to see an Arab thinker taking them up with such fervour is distressing, for they can never lead us any closer to peace. I ask The Star to stop the dissemination of these ideas now.

Kirk Thomas
Amman

● The opinion of Mr. Kattan do not represent those of The Star. As to the credibility of his sources and it is the responsibility of Mr Kattan to defend his ideas and refute your accusations. The Star accepted to give Mr. Kattan the space to express his ideas since he is a dedicated researcher and historian. You are right when you say that our "tragic history" justifies and enhances the beliefs in the idea of betrayal and conspiracy.

The editor

Tourism: a crippled industry?

To the editor:

We are not tourism-minded or cultured. There is a deviation from an established standard of performance. This deviation has been precisely identified, located, and described in my first sentence.

Let us stop pretending that we are the best in town and let us start acting. The tourist industry in Jordan will continue to exist as a crippled industry until such time as men of original genius reach the helm and steer the business to a successful conclusion. Success in this most expensive and highly rewarding industry entails incessant planning, constant hard work, and great sacrifices.

In this connection, I would like to draw the attention of those concerned to the following vital facts.

1. A systematic approach to problem solving and decision making.
2. Recruitment of men and women with training, foresight, vision, imagination, originality, common sense, sense of humour, and love to all men and malice towards none.
3. Restoration of historical and touristic sites.
4. Encouragement and inducement of prominent film producers to shoot and produce historical films in Jordan.
5. Initiation of lecture programmes by leading Jordanian politicians, economists, historians, and engineers at touristic centres.
6. Introduction of carnivals, fairs, and sporting events throughout the year at touristic sites.
7. Construction of a network of express trains to facilitate the movement of tourists.

If we serve the tourist the tourist will serve us.

George N. Saliba
Amman

Kamel Abu Jaber

The strategic co-operation agreements Part V

Greetings to Jerusalem!

THE MILITARY dimension, rather dimensions of the United States-Israeli co-operation agreements are so enormous, they need special attention. A few remarks seem to be in order regarding this aspect of the agreements.

First, there is, or seems to be, a deliberate attempt by both parties, to downgrade it or at least to obfuscate and to confuse the issue so that no clear and precise picture can emerge. Second, the nature of the Israeli state is such that it is difficult, if not indeed impossible, to separate or even draw a line between the military and other aspects of that society. For instance, are the settlements military or are they a civilian affair? Or, can the heavy military aid Israel receives from the United States be termed strictly military when it touches on every aspect of that society's economic and social life?

As gleaned from a variety of sources since the conclusion of the agreements, is the fact that the Israeli society is subsidized in its totality, and not just its military machine. Often, even to the detriment of the United States itself. Consider for instance, the fact that the US House of Representatives approved, 11 November 1983 (see the New York Times, p. A 14) legislation that will allow Israel to use $550 million in military credits to finance the development of the Israeli war plane, the Lavie, in Israel. The approval was given over the objections of Secretary of Defence, Caspar Weinberger, who said that "it is inappropriate for military credits to be used for building an Israeli plane that would be less effective than the F-15 and F-16...

The $550 million were given to Israel to build its own military industry and not because the Lavie is a more efficient war plane which it clearly is not. Military credits also are given to a particular country to purchase American military equipment not to develop alternative weaponry. This is clearly one aspect of the unique relationship between the two countries, where the US allows military aid to be, in fact, an economic support even for the development of a second rate weapon.

The military aspect, as is the case with other aspects of the agreements, calls for the setting-up of a joint committee to meet on a bi-annual basis for the purpose of co-ordination. Little is known about this committee so far, though it is expected to be convened in the beginning weeks of 1984. The published figure concerning the military aid for fiscal year 1984 is $1.7 billion in military credits and $910 million in economic grants. On 19 December 1983 (see Ad-Dustour of same date) six days before Christmas, a "secret" message was alluded to as having been sent by Mr. Ronald Reagan to Mr. Shamir, informing the latter that the United States appreciates the increasing "defence requirements" and burdens of Israel, and that it will act accordingly as of fiscal for 1986. The implication being that the US will cover the entire "defence" requirements of Israel, or at least the greater part of those requirements.

The military dimension also includes the co-ordination of future military planning and the storage of strategic military equipment in Israel. In addition to future joint land and sea manoeuvres between the Israeli and American armed forces, the agreements include a provision for the "sharing" of military knowledge and technology. Both countries also agreed to share and to exchange intelligence information while Israel agreed to open its air and sea port facilities for the use of the United States Air Force and Navy.

The United States agreed to provide Israel with medium land missiles in addition to supplying it with Cruise and Pershing missiles to strike at strategic targets. Israel on the other hand agreed to provide air cover for American air troop transport in the Mediterranean and in the Middle East area when the need arises. While Israel agreed to the erection of field hospitals on its terrain, the United States agreed to provide Israel with concussion and cluster bombs. It should be recalled that Washington stopped providing Israel with cluster bombs following Israel's invasion of Lebanon and its use of those bombs there.

Perhaps there are other military aspects to these agreements though it would seem difficult to think up any more to be added. On the military level, there is no need to emphasize that the military dimension goes far beyond the immediate "defence" requirements of Israel. It is as though Israel has been appointed the policeman of the area and beyond. The agreements when couched, as they indeed are, in the context of the East-West conflict, go beyond the local requirements of the immediate area towards covering the Gulf area, the Eastern Mediterranean and the Red Sea basin. One is bound to wonder whether Israel is now more "secure", and what next?

Is science for the progress, welfare of mankind ?

By Henry Matar

AMONG LAST week's events which news reports made reference to were two events which, although they might have aroused some interest, could have been glossed over as separate events that had nothing in common to be considered interactive or at least as originating in the same political concocting pot. One event emphasized the fact that West Germany had already installed the first instalment of the medium-range missiles sent to that country from America and that those missiles are now ready to be used at any moment. The second one talked about United States' pullout of the UNESCO, accusing this international forum of science, culture and education of corruption, partialism and politicization of its resolutions.

In fact, the two events could be considered as proceeding from the same determined will to hush down human objectivity of outlook and to drive scientific endeavour along a line already drawn by that will. On the one hand, the installation of the new missiles in Western Europe means the escalation of the nuclear weapon race against the better judgment of scientists who would like to see science serviced for the progress and welfare of mankind rather than for its misleading man to the crazy step of committing suicide. And on the other hand, the American move to lecture men of science and knowledge at the Unesco seems to aim at intimidating those learned people, and of course others with them, to behave in line with the wish of the great master of the world, or else mischief and loss be their fate.

It is not the first time that the United States has taken measures or issued certain proclamations wherewith to weakon the prestige of the United Nations. The vetoes which it used to drown down world-wide condemnation of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon are still fresh in mind. Likewise, its abstention to vote against the aggressive raids which South Africa is launching these days against Angola and the people of Namibia in spite of the, otherwise, unanimous vote of the Security Council in the opposite direction only shows how high the abstainee holds world public political opinion. And similarly, the despatch of the multi-national forces, outside the domain of the United Nations, to Lebanon just to back up Israeli aggression against the will of the majority of the Lebanese and of the bulk of the peoples of the surrounding Middle East area, is still another proof of a willful determination to set might in judgment over justice and good will.

It seems as if the message of Western democracy nowadays is intend on the democratization of World opinion and on the police-like suppression of popular will. Does not the very holding of the baton to the highest political bench, the Security Council, as well as to the choicest symposium of world's learning, the Unesco, believe any claim that such bravado attitude is made in the way of standing against depoliticization of the issue and the democratization of decision? Cannot it be said of such attitude that it is only taken, at least in the case of the Unesco affair, for the political flattery of Israel and for the winning over of Jewish votes for the 1984 presidential campaign?

On the level of nuclear weapons, the question looks to be more gloomy and even more stark horrible? For what does the deployment of more developed and more destructive nuclear weapons result in except counter measures on the opposing side? Hectic preparations for the launching of a nuclear warfare are being made inside American universities at least. Budgets, otherwise allocated for the advancement of research on humanitarian issues — medical, agricultural and intellectual — are being cut down upon and channelled towards other researches on nuclear warfare. What is really shocking is that scientists and professors are being intimidated or financially tempted to take in the bait.

Funds that might otherwise be employed to solve economic problems and social issues like unemployment and poverty are generously dissipated in two directions. One to achieve nuclear superiority over the enemy, and another to prepare defence against a nuclear attack from outside. Billions and billions of dollars are being spent on a large-scale scheme of how to evacuate and disperse big city concentrations of population in no time. Alongside such heated preparations, satellite states are being encouraged to possess nuclear power and even to learn how to use it for war purposes.

Herein lies a double fold danger to the whole world. For once nuclear superiority in favour of one side is established, once new scientific inventions, such as the laser beam, are successfully developed to reduce the 30 minutes' notice of a nuclear attack into a particle of a second, and once satellite underlings are instigated to start an occasion for war, who can then predict or even conceive what devastation, what death toll, and certainly what menace to the very survival of mankind will then be held in the balance?

What is no less frustrating is that nation-wide demonstrations against such destructive prospects are crushed or spent off as being groundless; that even the justifiable popular reaction to the presentation of an anti-nuclear-energy film, like "The Day After" is being treated as a creation of the fancy; that biological warfare researches banned by the Geneva Protocol of 1925 are being connived at or concealed under the pretence that they are carried out either for scientific purposes or under the cover of bacteria-culture laboratory experiments, as is the case in South Africa. And this is done at a time when, according to the 1980 International Development Report, 84 per cent of the world population are facing the menace of real starvation.

Isn't it high time scientists did something about the whole thing?

Memorandum

By Osama El Sherif

Glories of revolution

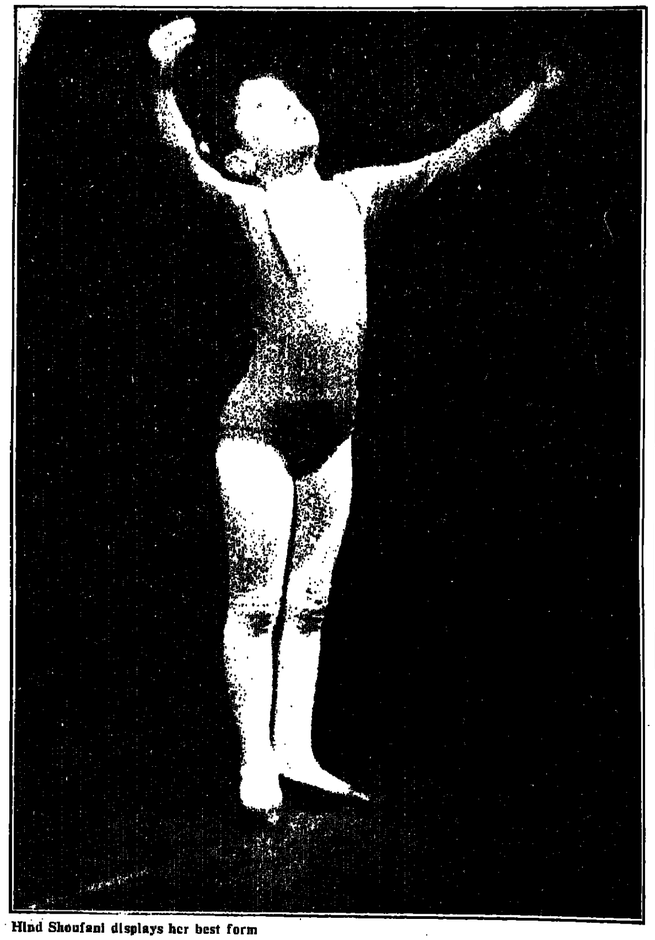
I RECEIVED a report from our Geneva correspondent on Iran's brutal and inhuman use of children in its war against Iraq. The report stated that the children are either forced or lured to join the army as volunteers. According to witnesses they are literally brainwashed through promises of martyrdom and paradise. Over 99 per cent of the children, the report said, are killed on the front lines. It added that the children, whose ages range between 9 to 16, are forced to walk through mined areas so as to "clean" it for the attacking regular troops. If this is not madness, what is?

This silly war between the two Gulf states has gone beyond all logical and even illogical justifications. It does not matter now who fired first or who the aggressor was. What matters is to stop this aimless waste of human lives and resources.

It is unbelievable how Iran's strategies are drawn where the lives of innocent children are sacrificed with no mercy for the sake of gaining a few kilometres of wasteland of another country's territories. What is the use? How valuable can land be when so many human lives are butchered in the process of acquiring it. What does it matter to Iranians if Iran was not able to crush the Iraqis or has managed to get a few hectares of Iraq's lands when their children are killed not in tens or hundreds but in thousands. What future do the Iranian leaders offer to their people under the umbrella of "Islamic revolution"? And which revolution can boast before the world that it has destroyed its enemies or built its glories on the broken bones and spilled blood of its own children?

Of all the frustrations and disappointments that the Iranian revolution produced, this ongoing incident seems to be the ugliest. There is only one explanation to Iran's deranged behaviour and that is moral, material and ideological bankruptcy. All justifications and hopes in the revival of the true spirit of Islam in Iran disappear by such acts. Iran has drifted into a frenzy search for the unattainable and has strayed in the deserts of its own landscape.

The leaders of Iran should know that victories are not scored in such manner and glories can be achieved only when the aim is noble and the method is honourable.



Hind Shoufani displays her best form

Front row, left to right: Nadine Bilbeisi, Anne-Flore, Melanie, Neveen Masi, and Hind Shoufani. In back, Marie-Claire Fennessy, Maria Khoury, Randa Nasir, Meiss Matalka, Helene Adnan and Shireen Hasan.

Zein Habbo, Paula Zaino and Meiss Jundi at the barre

One, Two, Three

By Pam Dougherty

Star Staff Writer
Photos by Osman Akuz

AMMAN'S BUDDING ballerinas showed their style at an end of term recital at the Haya Centre on 23 December.

The students belong to the Ballet 1, 2 and 3 classes at the Haya Arts Centre. They and their teacher Casey Stangl, had worked hard to develop a programme showing the skills they have acquired in class.

Miss Stangl says she wanted to show parents and other members of the audience what sort of work the children do in class and the progress they make as they move from Ballet 1 to Ballet 3.

Each class showed a sample of the barre and centre exercises they do. These are an essential part of every ballet class throughout the world. They differ only in their growing complexity as the dancer progress.

After the exercises each group presented a short dance and then all the students joined together for the dedication which always marks the end of a dance class.

In the last week of class Miss Stangl tested all the students to ensure that their technique and their knowledge of ballet terms was sound. All the students were successful and after the recital they received special certificates from Mr Nabil Sawalha, Director of the Haya Arts Centre. Miss Stangl is hoping that the children will continue to progress as satisfactorily as they have done so far, when classes begin again on 7 January.

And after the success of last week's programme, she and her students are planning a more ambitious recital in the spring.

Left to right: Meiss Matalka, Anne Flore Rabbieu, Helene Adan, Shireen Haj Hassan and Melanie Adan

The proud teacher looks on as Haya Centre Director Nabil Sawalha offers his hand to Shireen Haj Hassan on presenting her diploma

Rawad Shunna and Dina Abu Hamdan, with to their right Esther Nass, Karin Belbelian, and Samira Zwahlen

Lebanon's Chinese puzzle

Editor's note: Middle East scholar Helena Cobban examines the little-known power struggles within Lebanon's religious communities that are very likely to shape the country's future. The author identifies "the explosive growth of Beirut" as the factor that has radically changed the nature of Lebanese politics by shifting the power base within the religious communities from traditional feudal figures to younger, frequently more militant, figures. Particularly within the Maronite community, urbanization "produced the generation of young, hard-line cadres now in control of the Phalangist militia." She concludes that any political settlement should seek to harness the energy of Maronite and Shi'ite suburban political activists.

Part one

THE BEST way to begin to understand Lebanon's tortuous politics is to travel through its mountains. Although the Lebanon mountains can be toured in a single day, the crazy-quilt pattern of pine-clad ridges, steep gorges, and red-roofed villages perched above winding roads illustrates the web of rivalries and interdependencies that underlie the relations between Lebanon's religious communities.

Yet relations between these groups are only part of the story behind efforts to create a viable Lebanon. The country's religious communities are anything but monolithic. Within each are clashing personal, economic, and social interests. And within each there is a real and continuing contest between those determined to hold a pan-Lebanese society together and those who seek either autonomy or a wider, non-Lebanese identification for their community.

Forty years after Lebanon received its first promise of independence, its future still depends far more heavily on its individual communities than on any national forces. The persistent civil strife that the country has suffered since 1975 has underscored the failure of modern ideologies and institutions to change Lebanese loyalties. Even the most sophisticated, Westernized Lebanese have reverted into an atavistic identification with their particular sect — a trend accelerated by the events of late 1982 and early 1983. The continued presence of Israeli and Syrian forces in Lebanon further complicates efforts to arrange a national compromise. But what few outside Lebanon appreciate is that the country's fate also depends on the multiple debates within each of the major communities between the proponents of centripetal and centrifugal solutions.

No formal census has been carried out in Lebanon since the early 1930s, but a demographic survey conducted by a French family-planning organization in 1977 gave the following breakdown of the Lebanese population:

Lebanon's Sects:
Estimated Populations and Percentages

Shi'ite Muslims	850,000-900,000	28%
Maronite Christians	750,000-800,000	24
Sunni Muslims	600,000	19
Greek Orthodox Christians	300,000	9
Druze Muslims	250,000	8
Greek Catholic Christians	200,000	6
Armenian Christians	160,000	5

The historical context of these figures is critical. Since the late 18th century, the key forces ultimately responsible for the emergence of a distinctive Lebanese national entity were the two peoples of the Lebanon mountains, the Maronites and the Druze. In 1920 the French redrew the map of Lebanon, including the cities of the coast and the agricultural areas to the north, east, and south of the mountains. The new eastern and southern areas had large Shi'ite Muslim populations. But the newly Lebanized cities — Beirut, Sidon, Tripoli, and Tyre — boasted large and economically-powerful Sunni Muslim populations.

Maronites and Gemayels

Lebanon became independent on the basis of an unwritten political formula known as the National Pact. Under the terms of this compromise the Maronites retained the presidency of the republic and overall command of the army; the post of prime minister was reserved for a Sunni in recognition of Sunni primacy among Lebanon's Muslims. The Druze filled some positions of relative power within the army, in a nod toward their historical role in helping to define a Lebanese state.

Of the four major communities the Shi'ites got the worst of the deal. The National Pact gave them only one post of any real influence, that of speaker of the parliament; the speaker's main opportunities to exercise this influence came only at election time — every six years for the presidential elections and every four years for the parliamentary elections.

Bashir Gemayel

Kamal Junblatt

Musa Sadr

Although the Maronites were clearly first among equals, the veto powers of the Sunni prime minister helped the National Pact preserve a precarious stability for about 30 years. But since 1943 Lebanon's demographic balance has shifted. The rates of natural increase for the Shi'ite and Maronite populations have been higher than those of the other communities. Since the Christians of the Levant traditionally have had a higher emigration rate than the Muslims, the Shi'ites have experienced the highest rate of net growth, a development that has made them the largest religious community in Lebanon. Even some Sunnis now privately speak of the "demographic threat" posed to the National Pact by the Shi'ites.

The Maronites, members of an obscure Christian sect, were originally Syrians who some time before the 10th century sought refuge in modern-day Lebanon from the orthodox Christian and Muslim peoples of the Levant. They settled first in the rugged mountains at the northern end of the Mount Lebanon range, but over the centuries their social and economic vitality enabled their community to grow, and the area of Maronite settlement spread steadily southward past Shi'ite settlements near Byblos and into the Shouf mountain redoubt of the Druze. Today there are Maronite villages as far south as northern Israel. Although Lebanon was not the cradle of Maronite doctrine, it has been a hospitable incubator for their community and remains the centre of the Maronite world. The Maronites can argue with some validity that the well-being and the survival of Lebanon are a sine qua non for their survival as a sect.

Feudal oligarchs and commercial interests organized along familiar lines have historically dominated Maronite society, particularly in northern Lebanon. Traditional Maronite mountain politics have long been marked by power struggles among rival feudal leaders and more recently between northern feudal chiefs and their more egalitarian counterparts in the south.

During the last century, peasant groups organized by the Maronite church succeeded in winning political influence in some southern Lebanese communities. Northern feudal leaders saw themselves as the legitimate leaders of the Maronite community, and they resented the growing strength of these emerging power centres. But the southerners have quarreled among themselves as well. The politics of the mountains truly have been as tangled as their topography.

In recent decades, the explosive growth of Beirut has drastically altered Maronite politics and society. Since World War I the capital has drawn increasing numbers of Lebanese of all sects down from the mountains to the poorly planned suburbs that soon sprawled all around it. Thus today, Maronite politics reflect both the interests of the mountain leaders and those of the semiurbanized masses in Maronite suburbs such as Mdawar or Ain al Roumani.

The urbanization of the Maronite community produced the generation of young, hardline cadres now in control of the Phalangist militia. Uprooted from the villages of their fathers and grandfathers, young Maronites formed neighbourhood and occupational allegiances that weakened their ties to traditional political leaders. In the mountains tension between Lebanese sects had been defused by traditional feudal arrangements and the geographical separation of the villages of different groups. But in Beirut young Maronites were forced to compete directly for jobs, housing, and other necessities with their Sunni, Shi'ite, and Druze peers. These conditions generated a militancy that led the young Maronites to disdain the political compromises worked out by their elders.

The winter of 1975-1976 was a turning point for Maronite society. Druze leader Kamal Junblatt led his Muslim and leftist allies, who sought influence commensurate with their majority status, in a military drive to control all of Lebanon. When Jumblat's armies first appeared over the mountains of the Upper Metn range, the Maronites felt their very survival threatened. There was little time for careful political analysis. The entire community took up arms, old rivalries were laid aside, and anyone with a gun (in practice, nearly everyone) hurried to the front lines. These dramatic events revolutionized the Maronite body politic: Raw firepower pushed aside family, geographic, or business interests as the main source of influence in Maronite society. And so one had more firepower than the younger generation of urban Phalangist militiamen led by the late Bashir Gemayel.

The son of Phalange party founder, Pierre Gemayel, Bashir had a meteoric career. After attending law school at Saint Joseph University in Beirut, a traditional route into Lebanese politics, he served as a Phalange official in the suburb of Achrafie. By the time war broke out, Bashir was so well-known among Beirut's Maronites that he was able to assume command of the Phalange militia at the age of 28. Immediately after the October 1976 cease-fire, which was negotiated by the Arabs, some of the traditional Maronite politicians tried to make a comeback. They all failed, and as Bashir built up a complete set of civilian institutions in the areas controlled by his militia, nearly all the traditional politicians, including his father, were forced to accept his supremacy.

Bashir received vital support from the Maronite monkhood. With its network of strategically located monasteries providing superb long-term bases for Maronite fighters, the monkhood has always been a fertile breeding ground for a hard-line Maronitism. In the late 1970s the election as abbot of Bashir's ideological godfather, Boulos Naaman, signalled that the monkhood would continue to encourage Phalange extremism.

Inside Bashir's enclave a whole generation of Maronite youth was brought up on his beliefs. His orthodoxy held that Maronites are not Arabs and have nothing in common with Muslims. Muslims, Bashir believed, were bent on reducing the Maronites to serfdom in their own country. Further, there could be no accommodation with the Muslims. If demographics prevent the Maronites from totally dominating the Muslims throughout Lebanon, the Maronites should seek autonomy in their own region.

Still, some Phalangist representatives say that they would dissolve the de facto statelet they have created if the rest of Lebanon were to be freed from the rule of the Syrians and Palestinians. A truly Lebanese solution could then emerge. These figures also claim that nearly all Lebanese Muslims share this Phalangist vision of the future, but that Syrian and Palestinian occupation prevents this silent majority from expressing itself freely.

Yet the Phalangist doves cannot explain how conflicting Muslim and Christian aspirations would be reconciled in the "purely Lebanese" solution that they seek. "Between real Lebanese," Bashir Gemayel once told this writer, "there are no such problems." Despite such assurances, one is always left with the feeling that the Phalangist definition of a real Lebanese is anyone who would accept the near-total domination of the Lebanese system by the Maronites.

The Phalangists thought that their moment had come in mid-1982, when the Israeli invasion of Lebanon chased the Palestinian and Syrian forces far away from Beirut and from the mountains. Although Bashir was killed shortly after his election as president, the positive Muslim reaction to the election of his elder brother, Amin, to replace him encouraged many Phalangists to believe that the Muslim silent majority was beginning to speak.

But Amin's base of power was in the Phalangist political apparatus, not in the militia; soon after his election the military began to impose its will on him. Thus almost immediately after his inauguration, Amin ordered army units to "remove illegal housing units" from Shi'ite slums in West Beirut. He later nominated known Phalangist hard-liners to the army command and to the directorate of the internal security services. These acts clearly signaled to many Muslims that the Phalangist hard-liners dominated Amin.

Phalangist policies soon created trouble for Amin. Phalangist militiamen who had piggy-backed into the Shouf Mountains with the Israeli invasion forces immediately started to dominate the region's Druze and non-Phalangist Christian inhabitants. The military resistance of the mountain Druze to the Phalangists during the winter of 1982-1983 in turn inspired the many urban Muslims, who began to feel that the trust they had placed in Amin had been betrayed.

Continued next week

Military and state in the Soviet Union

By Roy Medvedev

SOME WESTERN Sovietologists believe that military interests have absolute priority in the Soviet Union, that the Army plays a bigger role than the party, and that the Politburo only formally governs the country while real power belongs to the military. They are wrong.

The military-political complex in the USSR is under the effective control of the party leadership which itself, however, is not under such effective control by society. In the relationship 'Army-military industry,' however, the chief role belongs to the army. Air marshals and admirals have more influence at the highest levels of power than the directors of the biggest military plants.

In Russia, even before the revolution, the army enjoyed special prestige. The nobility, the military estate, were the chief ruling class. On the other hand the Bolsheviks were against militarism and Lenin said several times that under socialism a people's militia would replace the professional army.

But the civil war of 1917-1921 that begun soon after the revolution demanded that the Bolsheviks create a regular and professional Red Army. Military services came to be highly esteemed. Advancement into the higher echelons of power for most of the new leaders lay through the field of battle against the Soviet state's enemies.

The Second World War created in the Soviet people an unyielding horror or war but it also raised the prestige of the Soviet army that had won such a difficult victory. The names of the victorious commanders are still very popular today.

In the 1980s much has changed. The names of the present marshals and admirals are almost unknown to ordinary people. Military careers do not seem particularly attractive for the young. The two-to three-year national service is not the happiest prospect for young people.

Professional soldiers sincerely believe that their chief business is military activity and therefore make no claim on political and economic matters. The number of soldiers in the party Central Committee increased from 4 per cent in the mid-1950s to 10 per cent at the start of the Eighties but professional soldiers still only make up 5 per cent of military-political leaders.

During and after the war the military leaders who rose to the top as a result of Stalin's purges kept their loyalty to him. But rivalry between the army and secret police helped Khrushchev, after Stalin's death, to get rid of Beria. Krushchev would not have managed to beat the 'anti-party group' in 1957 without marshal Zhukov's support. It is also true that Krushchev could not have been sent into retirement without the help of the then defence minister Marshal Malinovsky.

The support of defence minister Marshal Grechko strengthened the personal power of Brezhnev, although in the latter years Brezhnev ceased to enjoy the sympathies of the military establishment. This is why marshal Ustinov proposed to the Politburo after Brezhnev's death that Yuri Adnropov be elected the new General-Secretary. But history also shows that after the consolidation of power the soldiers' political role starts to diminish.

All important military leaders are party members and expulsion from the party would end their military careers. What is more, the Politburo or Central Committee secretariat must approve all important appointments and transfers within the military hierarchy.

There is a special department in the Central Committee with which the Ministry of Defence has to agree all basic matters of military construction. Stalin personally approved every new type of tank, plane, rifle and artillery piece.

Many matters of this sort are dealt with today in the Defence Ministry. But the discussion and approval of the most important sorts of armaments still takes place in the Kremlin. The Central Committee supervises all troop movements and in the Moscow Military District not one military unit may be moved unless the order has the signature of a Central Committee secretary next to the district commander's.

The Army in the USSR is not independent from politics as in some countries. Party members in every military unit form a primary party organisation, as do Komsomol (youth league) members.

Closely linked with these is the system of political departments, special administrative-political organs with considerable powers. Every unit has a deputy commander 'for political leadership.' Armies and military districts have their 'political directorate.'

This system is crowned by the Political directorate of the armed forces of the USSR which is equivalent to a Central Committee department and takes orders from the Politburo and secretariat, not the defence ministry.

Soldier's ambition is limited to military service. Nevertheless military leaders take part in the formation of military doctrine, which is the most important component of Soviet foreign policy. War between the super-powers can only be total war and this makes it necessary for soldiers to have a say in decisions affecting many factories and institutions.

Matters that are primarily military-political — such as the use of troops in Afghanistan or the size of manoeuvres — are discussed and decided in the Politburo. Soldiers have the right here to say their word, which is very important but not decisive.

It has been said that 'war is too serious to leave to the soldiers.' Today war has become so 'serious' that in many situations it can be entrusted only to the most highly qualified professionals.

One may assume that the Soviet Union has not less than two permanently operating duplicated command centres enjoying maximum protection. These centres are staffed by some of the most senior commanders who during their duty watch are invested with vast power and can use it in a critical situation.

Similar centres must exist in every Soviet military district. They have communications not only with the Soviet political leaders but also with the corresponding command centres of the US or NATO with the aim of avoiding war by mistake.

If the situation allows, the military leaders will take decisions jointly with the political leadership, but there can be situations where a military commander must take a decision quickly and only afterwards explain his actions to the political leadership.

This shows only that military actions can put political leaders in a difficult position. There are no grounds for the theory of some Sovietologists that this could have been a case of conscious actions by soldiers trying to complicate the peaceful efforts of the politicians towards arms limitation.

(ONS)

Crimes committed by Israel

Pascal B. Karmy
Special to The Star

A FEW weeks ago the ad hoc political committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations passed a resolution with the majority of the members voting for and two — U.S.A. and Israel against. This was to condemn Israel, which committed grave violations of the Geneva Convention IV of 1949 on the Protection of the Civilians during war. It further accused Israel for its unlawful practices such as annexation of parts of the occupied territories, ill-treatment and torture of detainees etc. The General Assembly further confirmed that the above-mentioned Convention is applicable to the territories occupied by Israel.

Indeed Israel and its leaders have gravely violated the Geneva Convention, and other international agreements as well as UN resolutions not only before it was 'recognized' as a state, for example Deir Yassin and King David outrages, but also after its recognition and becoming a member of the UN, by the killings of innocent Palestinians at Kufr Qasem, Nasser Eddin and Qibia in Palestine and Sabra and Shatila in Lebanon. Add to all that the ill-treatment, detention, torture and deportation of cilvilians and prisoners who resist the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories.

I wish to give "The Star" readers only a summary of the international legal instruments by virtue of which Israel, and particularly its leaders, can be charged with war crimes, crimes against peace and crimes against humanity.

On 8 August 1946, the governments of the US, the USSR, France and the United Kingdom signed in London an agreement for the establishment of an International Military Tribunal. The Tribunal was establised for the trial of war criminals of the second world war whose crimes have no particular geographical location as provided in article 2 of the agreement. It was to operate in accordance with a charter annexed to the agreement, known as the Charter of Nurunberg tribunal. The tribunal was composed of four members, one appointed by each of the above-mentioned signatory governments.

The crimes enumerated in the charter include the following: Crimes against peace include planning, preparation, initiation or waging war of aggression or a war in violation of international treaties, agreements or assurances. War crimes include violations of the laws or customs of war such as murder, ill-treatment or deportation for any purpose of civilian population of or in occupied territory, plunder of public or private property, wanton destruction of cities, towns or villages or devastation not justified by military necessity. Crimes against humanity namely murder, extermination, deportation and other inhuman acts committed against any civilian population, before or during the war, or persecutions on political, racial or religious grounds. The charter further provides that leaders, organisers, instigators and accomplices participating in the formulation or execution of a common plan or conspiracy to commit any of the foregoing crimes are responsible for all acts performed by any persons in execution of such plan.

It should be pointed out that many of the above-noted crimes were already contained in the Hague convention of 1907 and in the Geneva convention of 1929. For many years military courts have tried and punished individuals guilty of violating the rules of land warfare laid down by those Conventions. In 1946 the general assembly of the UN resolved that it "affirms the principles of international law recognised by the charter of Nurumberg tribunal and the judgment of the tribunal". The Nurumberg principles were later formulated by the International Law Commission on the instruction of the General Assembly. In 1949 the four Geneva conventions were established and now acceded to by almost states. They deal with such important matters as protection of the civilian population in occupied territories, treatment of war prisoners and the injured etc.

It should be observed that the provisions of the above-mentioned international conventions and agreements have become peremptory rules of international law that is to say they must be complied with by all states during war and no state can in any circumstances absolve itself of responsibility even if it has not acceded to those conventions. It is now recognised also that international law is not only concerned with States but also with individuals who are responsible for war crimes or crimes against peace or against humanity. Indeed crimes against any law, whether municipal or international are committed by men, and only by punishing them, can the provisions of international law be enforced. Thus individuals cannot be absolved of resp[illegible] ity by alleging that they [illegible] responsibil[illegible] the doctrine of [illegible] were covered by [illegible] the sovereignty of their State or that in doing what they did they were acting under orders of their superiors. In effect article 8 of the charter specifically provides — "The fact that the defendant acted pursuant to order of his government or of a superior shall not free him from responsibility, but may be considered in mitigation of punishment."

It is common knowledge that Israel and its leaders have time and again committed aggressive wars and acts since its inception. They have expelled the original Arab inhabitants of Palestine and have not allowed them to return to their homes in Palestine in flagrant violation of the General Assembly resolutions. They have launched aggressive wars against Egypt in 1956 and against Egypt, Jordan and Syria in 1967. They have refused to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories notwithstanding General Assembly resolutions and Security Council deci[illegible] 1967. They [illegible] decision 242 of crim[illegible] have also committed such crimes against Palestinians in violation of the above resolutions. All of those leaders must, therefore, be brought to book sooner or later.

Arabs and the arms race

THE WORLDPaper, which is distributed monthly as a Star supplement, raised the question of the arms build-up, and asked its readers if they felt threatened by the on-going arms race. Many of the articles in that issue pointed out that the two superpowers are engaged in heated and, sometimes senseless endeavours to arm themselves to the teeth.

I thought about the direction of the WorldPaper articles as I was reading on analysis on the effects of a nuclear war on this planet. Life on Earth, argue many scientists, will come to a halt in the event of a nuclear war.

Then I thought if both the arms race and the threat of a nuclear exchange were really important and relevant matters to me as an Arab. Should I really care if the whole world is on a suicidal course? As members of the world community, the Arabs cannot help but pay attention when the argument is about the very existence of this planet. But the matter is not that clear-cut.

In the past three decades, when the issues of arms build-up and nuclear annihilation were raised in academic halls and on the pages of newspapers, our people were being killed and robbed of their land and identity by an arrogant enemy that threatens our very existence more visciously than an A-Bomb.

We simply cannot worry about the future of the planet, along with the rest of the world community, when we are in the dark as to what Israel's next move might be. If we have to list our priorities, then the arms race or the threat of a nuclear disaster will not be on the top of our list. Ruthless, racist, and arrogant Zionism threatens us more brutally. And when you barely can afford to buy bread to feel your children, you should not really be expected to worry if the superpowers bought more weapons or not.

Israel, which inflicts all sorts of life-threatening measures on the Arab people everywhere, is making the problems of the arms race and the future of the planet secondary issues to the average Arab. For when we are not so sure about today, how can we really think about tomorrow. Or, as the Arab poet put it, when I die of thirst, I do not care if it ever rains anymore!

Students abroad need more help, says expert

By Amal Ghandour
Star Staff Writer

A GROWING number of Jordanian students are studying in the US and Europe, but the task of adapting to a new system of education and life is not getting easier according to Mr Richard Colkins, the Dean of Admissions at the American College in Switzerland. Mr. Colkins was recently on his second visit to Jordan looking at the problems of the Jordanian students, and exploring ways to overcome them. He said "Many Jordanian students face tremendous difficulties at the beginning of their university education."

"Adapting to the new academic and social freedoms" he said "is a burden to many of them." The emphasis on independent and responsible decision-making in the American system, he pointed out, scares and troubles Jordanians who generally prefer "conclusions to be drawn out for them rather than to make them themselves."

A major dilemma which Mr Colkins noted is the Jordanian students fear of inquiring about important regulations and technical terms designed to help him in his first year of college. He said that "they do not ask whether they have been assigned a counsellor. And many of them are not familiar with certain terms in the college booklet and do not dare ask because somehow they are afraid of appearing weak or stupid to the others."

Scandal

Mr Colkins did not only blame the Jordanian students for their reserved attitude, though he urged them to be more aggressive and outgoing. Half of the blame, he said, should be directed at the American universities.

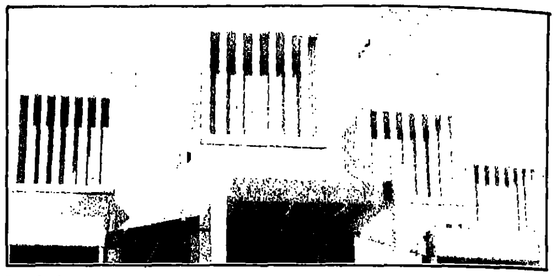
Mr Colkins went on to say that "one of the biggest scandals is the lack of a system for foreign students. For example, there are no booklets for foreign students. There are no applications designed for foreign applicants, despite the fact that much of the American universities' revenue depends on the influx of foreign students.

Mr Colkins added, though, that American universities are beginning to establish foreign student offices, and send delegations to the Middle East, especially to Jordan and Kuwait, to encourage recruitment. He said that "the Middle East will see more delegations because of the more money involved. It is known to American universities that foreign students are generally able to pay for their education."

During his stay in Jordan, Mr Colkins met with the representatives of Amid East, an advisory service for Jordanians seeking education in American universities, and visited many schools. He talked to almost 350 students who were all very interested but confused.

Judging from their enthusiasm and questions, Mr Colkins concluded that "Jordan is in real need for more organizations like Amid East to assist students in applying to American universities." He also suggested that they should have access to information and counselling offices that could help them make their choices. For example, he pointed out that most Jordanian students are not informed about American universities' financial aid programmes and this often prevents them from considering outside education.

Assessing the success of his trip, Mr Colkins felt that "many students have been enlightened of the advantages of studying abroad." He hoped that his meetings with students encouraged them to learn about the system of education they would be joining, and taught them more about establishing themselves in American universities.



Barred cubes create a modern reference to a traditional Arabic windtower

New university for Qatar

OUT in the desert just beyond the north-west boundary of Doha, a striking new building is rising.

Contractors are now putting the finishing touches to the first phase of the new purpose-built University of Qatar.

The university — the students, the staff, the organisation itself — is already a thriving academic institution in Qatar. But it is housed in a collection of buildings that have been adapted, extended and added to piecemeal as the life of the university has grown.

Now a new university is growing. The buildings of the new complex are based on combinations of the octagon and cube, multiplied to form the units of the building. Between fifty and sixty per cent of the structures consist of pre-cast concrete units made near the construction site, the rest is in-situ concrete.

The oldest computer

The latest computer to catch on in Japan has neither chips nor disks, and the only power it requires comes from the flicking fingers of its user. It is the age-old abacus, or soroban.

Dozens of corporations are sending their employees to one of 30,000 soroban jukus — "cram schools" — for refresher courses. Abacus arithmetic involves shifting beads back and forth along a series of parallel wires. Users make fewer mistakes than their button-pushing counterparts.

As for speed, experienced users can flick the beads far faster than they can push buttons. The recent winners of a national soroban championship whipped through 20 problems, each involving the addition of 20 eleven-digit numbers, in less than five minutes.

Islamic education in a changing world

New days for old ways

By Daniel A. Wagner

DIOURBEL, Senegal. Shortly after dawn, Serigne Abdoulaye, the master teacher, arrives at the jangu — the traditional Islamic school. Boys and girls, some as young as three years old, soon begin to take their places in long tin-roofed rooms or in the outside courtyard. On their wooden slates are written 25 to 30 lines of Arabic script. Almost imperceptibly the room begins to hum as the 50 or more children, holding up their slates, start to chant the day's lessons. Class has begun.

The children are learning passages from the Quran. While the youngest simply mimic the teacher, repeating phrases they do not yet understand, the older students with some knowledge of Arabic concentrate on more difficult passages.

A man in his mid-50s, Serigne Abdoulaye no longer teaches the younger children, but provides individual lessons for the small number of older adolescents who intend to follow in the footsteps of their master.

Those who choose to become Quranic school teachers gain on-the-job experience by teaching the scores of younger children who are learning the basics of Arabic and the Quran.

The scene in this Diourbel jangu is being repeated in much of the Third World. Senegal shares one key cultural element with about half the countries and half the [illegible] of the developing world — a population [illegible] faith in Islam. [illegible]

One of every five people in the world embraces Islam, and the Islamic tradition has maintained and regenerated itself across generations for over 14 centuries. Within this heritage, the Islamic religious school has been the accepted and most widespread means of social and cultural reproduction.

The traditional Quranic school instructs children in elements of Islamic belief and custom, basic literacy in Arabic, and advanced Islamic studies.

But in spite of a central focus on the study of Quranic texts, the schools have adapted to the cultural constraints of each society. To the casual observer these traditional schools may appear to have changed little over the centuries but, in reality, they are undergoing significant transformations.

Indonesia is the largest and most populous Muslim country in the world. About 95 per cent of Indonesia's population of 140 million are Muslims, and almost 20 million children attend the country's Islamic schools.

Modern teaching methods are making some inroads in Indonesia's Quranic schools, particularly in the cities. In one school next to a Jakarta mosque, for example, a visitor could overhear each of the teenaged students chanting his particular passage loudly, helping to produce a cacophony of sounds.

The teacher had adapted foreign language learning techniques to Quranic study. Each student had headphones, a cassette recorder, and tapes of all the suras of the Quran.

Islam arrived in Senegal in the 11th century with the slow but continuous arrival of traders and occasional military incursions from North Africa.

The Senegalese are now finding that [illegible] schooling must adapt or lose its [illegible] French-language public [illegible] Abdoulaye's students to the [illegible] school system. Serigne [illegible]

In North Yemen girls now participate in Quranic schools.

Wooden slates (lub) used for the study of the Quranic suras lie stacked outside the school in Diourbel, Senegal

school, for example, has almost no funds as fewer children accept the traditional mode of teaching. New schools and teachers have begun to replace the old.

At one such modernized school (referred to as an "Islamic institute"), in the island city of Saint Louis, rote learning and recitation are still considered reasonable ways for young children to begin Quranic study. After two or three years of memorizing, however, children are given comprehensive training in reading and writing Arabic.

After Saudi Arabia, North Yemen is the country most closely associated with the founding of Islam. It has also remained closer to its traditions than any other Muslim country, as, until the 1972 revolution, Yemen had been effectively cut off from the Western world for almost a millenium.

Before the revolution, the only school system in the country was the traditional Quranic school.

Boys would attend from age four to 10 or 12, or until they were needed for agricultural chores. Rote learning, recitation, and the rudiments of literacy were the rule.

Because of Yemen's low literacy rates, the religious scholars were the controllers and arbiters of most local legal issues. Since the revolution, however, the government has made a concerted effort to increase public school enrollment.

This has had two related effects on the separate Islamic school system. First, fewer adolescents have gone on to become Quranic school teachers, because attending modern public high schools offers them a brighter future.

Second, with fewer Quranic teachers, and with an increasing school-aged population, the Islamic school authorities have been filling teaching positions with Egyptian school teachers trained in modern secular schools.

(IDRC)

Mother and child

The free standing Royal Insignia

Arab world inspires British sculptress

By Vanessa Batrouni
Special to The Star

BRITISH SCULPTRESS Judith Bluck first came to the Middle East over twenty years ago to satisfy a curiosity about the archaeological features of the area. Since then through subsequent visits not only to Jordan but also to Oman, Muscat and Doha she has established many personal as well as business contacts and her love and interest in the area has grown to such an extent that she now considers Jordan a second home.

Her most recent visit to Amman in December 1983 was for both social and working purposes and included discussions on a civic projects she hopes to undertake this year.

Judith's great love for environmental design, in which she excells, has won her recognition in Europe and the United Kingdom. She is constantly sought after by Government departments and architects to design and create sculptures for civic projects such as the new Crown Courts in Portsmouth which now sport her fine carved doors and a free standing insignia, the first to be built free standing for three hundred years.

Judith believes that the common man should be interested in his environment and should be stimulated daily by his surroundings. Many of her creations are therefore carefully chosen subjects on an accessible human level. For Rochdale's town centre, a renowned market town in the north of England, she sculpted three life size sheep which were unveiled by one of Rochdales famous daughters, the late Gracie Fields. For Blackpools new Lesiure Centre she created a frieze of local attractions of sea, infrequent sun and family fun in which with an almost Chaucerian affection she portrays the yearly horde of holidaymakers.

Even a more abstract sculpture such as the fountain — a triple crucible structure — that adorns the facade of Sheffield's Manpower Commissions building has been inspired by the city's traditional occupation of steel making.

Manual work

Judith's work involves many months of research followed by more months of sculpting in clay before the subject is finally fired in bronze or cold cast bronze.

The working of many of the large relief friezes is physically taxing and requires enormous stamina but Judith being an independent lady likes to set up her own scaffolding and wield the heavy tools.

To realise the amount of heavy work involved one has only to follow the procedure for working the Blackpool frieze. She modelled it in thirty sections, each nine foot high in a local farmers barn, sometimes working through the cold wintor nights to meet the completion date and used up two and a half tons of clay and two tons of plaster.

Flowing lines

Obviously such work takes its toll health and timewise and Judith hopes that in the future she will be able to set aside more time for design and private work.

Her country cottage in her native Yorkshire houses a collection of most of her private works, sensitive studies of family groups that in the flowing, enwrapping lines reconstruct the spiritual as well as the physical bond between mother and child. Her portraits and busts of friends or of people whose strength of personality has attracted her, reveal her insights into her subject. She portrays their personality rather than faithfully copying their features.

Her "vital and uncompromising character studies" have won her several awards and she has been commissioned by many international celebrities. She has recently brought to Amman an uncommissioned bust of former prime minister Wasfi Tell. Judith studied Wasfi Tell through photographs and videos and was intrigued by his powerful intellect and forceful personality.

Judith believes that "all art is derived from nature, human or otherwise and that all abstract art is based on natural forms." Being a great naturalist she is drawn to the austere terrain of Jordan which she compares with the limestone country of Yorkshire.

She says that under a starry canopy in the rolling countryside one's awareness of a cosmic power and its driving energies cannot fail to be heightened and it is this feeling of force of life as power she tries to communicate in her personal work

Frieze at the Blackpool leisure centre

along with her strong sense of timelessness.

Over the past twenty years Judith has witnessed the changes progress has wrought on this country and is amazed at the rapid growth of Amman which she considers a fantastic achievement.

She is also pleased that nature has not been forgotten in the surge of suburban development and that the treeplanting scheme was undertaken and successfully continued.

She feels too that Haida Mahmoud, Director of the Fine Arts Institute has contributed a great deal to the development of art in Jordan, the standard of which has improved tremendously but she is "appalled at the rubbish put around the Middle East by mostly foreign sculptors and at very high prices."

"Everything starts with art" she says, "a teacup, a building, a public convenience-every artifact needs a design" — therefore civic sculpture needs very careful consideration. It is also a slow process requiring research into history and location, while structural problems, engineering problems and access must all be studied.

She therefore urges countries in the Middle East to make haste slowly, to take more time over the environment they are creating, to move with quality and care rather than with speed and thus avoid the glaring mistakes of urban developments in the west which are only now being corrected.

When two champions fall in love

"EDITH et Marcel", a new French film which has caused a stir, relates one of the most famous love stories of the postwar years, the story of Edith Piaf and Marcel Cerdan, one of them a champion of song, the other a champion of the boxing ring.

When they met in 1947, Edith Piaf was at the summit of her fame and Marcel Cerdan, the French nation's favourite boxer, had just celebrated his hundredth professional fight. Their tumultuous affair lasted two years, until Marcel's death in an aircraft accident on August 27, 1949. For their admirers, their love story has become almost a myth.

Claude Lelouch, one of French movies' prodigy directors, began his career at the time of the Nouvelle Vague. He has been famous since he made "Un homme et une femme" (A Man and a Woman). Everyone still remembers of film's theme music, which is hummed twenty years after.

With "Edith et Marcel", at present showing on French screens, Lelouch has achieved one of his greatest films, a hymn to love and a fine popular melodrama.

And yet the movie nearly wasn't made at all. Patrick Dewaere, the actor who should have played the role of Marcel Cerdan, died just before shooting was to start. Lelouch wondered what he should do — drop the film altogether or keep going and compromise? He took the risk, asked Marcel Cerdan's own son, Marcel Cerdan Junior (a former boxer himself), to play his father's role.

The wager came off. Cerdan Junior and Evelyne Boulx, playing the role of Piaf, make a fine team.

The film seems to have a fine career ahead of it, first of all in France but also in the United States, where Claude Lelouch is popular. As for Cerdan, who won the world middleweight title at Jersey City on September 21, 1948, he is one of the rare French boxers considered by the Americans as a genuine champion.

(Radio France Internationale)

Author offers a real image of the Arabs

By Fadia Faqir
Special to The Star

"WESTERN MASS media presents the Arab as an aggressive, savage carrying a dagger between his teeth. With my humble abilities and capabilities, I attempted in my book, The Ordeal of Voices: Arab Women Speak, to show the real image of the generous Arab who loves listening to music and enjoys living in peace," says noted Algerian writer Mrs. Aicha Lemsine.

Her first book, 'The Chrysalis' (1976), focused on the Algerian woman, a major participant in the Algerian national battle of independence, after the revolution. The writer presented her as an individual crying out in the face of society in order to obtain her full human and national rights.

In her second novel, 'Heaven of Porphyry' (1978) Aicha presented an image of the Algerian man as the maker of Algerian independence, ready to serve his country in order to retain its glory and liberty.

In her latest book, 'The Ordeal of Voices: Arab Women Speak' (1983), the horizon of Aicha's work widens to encompass all the Arab world. In the introduction, she says, "I attempted to write this book to try to fill the gap in the knowledge of others, and to present the Arabs as they live now. This book take all its meanings from the suffering that is affecting all the parts of the Arab world.

After the siege of Beirut by the Israeli army, and the bloody massacres at Sabra and Shatila the blind hatred no longer needs words or theoretical planning.... it passes to act under the sight and hearing of this so called civilized world."

"We are not terrorists. The word "pogrom" was not introduced to the dictionary by Arabs. Our land is not the land of violence, hate, and division. People worship God, and everybody does it in his own way. Violence, death and racism came to us from outside, they are not original here," Aicha says.

She sees the Arab lands, where all religions were born, as a treasure that should be looked after and utilized. "Arabs should guard their culture, history and values vigilantly because the West tries to influence us in every possible way. By imitating it, we win only its disrespect. She believes the only solution for our fluctuating situation is to strike a balance between what we import from the West and the true instructions of Islam."

Between 1979 and 1983, Aicha flew from one country to another surveying the area over which the Prophets passed, Palestine, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Iraq, Sudan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, the two Yemens.

"It seems to me that the Prophets passed and the superstitions remained. Islam is a constructive religion which encourages people to be open minded and tolerant, to obey God not other human-beings. It does not frighten, limit, and kill the human being mentally and psychologically. Prejudice came from fear, and fear causes ignorance. The whole process is a direct result of the incessant attacks on the Arab world." Aicha comments.

During these years she interviewed about 1200 people. With the ordinary people she allowed them to talk, regardless of their age, social class, position and religion. But with educated people such as journalists, writers and sheikhs she asked them specific questions and expected to get accurate answers. Her interference as a writer was kept to the minimum because she wanted people to have their say, but to avoid repetition, Aicha selected certain material unified by the general theme of Islam and Arab culture.

Silent majority

Explaining the plan of the book, she says, "It deals only with policy makers, who apparently influence the silent majority, such as ministers, writers and grandmothers." Her aim was to present a bright picture of the Near-Eastern woman to counteract the distorted picture held by the west.

Aicha Lemsine in conversation with Sheikh Shaarawi, Egypt, 1982

And what does this picture show? In Saudi Arabia, work and education are open to women.

In Bahrain, a woman occupies the position of captain of public security. In Kuwait, one has reached the position of assistant minister. The highest army rank given to a Jordanian woman is brigadier general, and a woman occupies the post of a minister.

Lebanese women are distinguished for their high education and by the freedom they enjoy, but unfortunately, they haven't won any political recognition. The Egyptian women have reached a high stage, they occupy the positions of a minister and an ambassador. The highest position held by a Sudanese woman is that of deputy. Palestinian women are very active and they are major participant in the fight for their land.

In Iraq, the women are aware of their rights and they are defended by a powerful woman's union. The minister of education in Syria is a woman. In South Yemen, women have a powerful woman's union and one has reached the position of minister. In North Yemen, the highest position occupied by a woman is diplomat in residence.

"But, although women in general have reached a high stage and have occupied senior positions from which they can have their say, their authority has not been used in issuing codes and laws to protect other women in lawer positions," Aicha said.

Misfortune

In her conclusion Aicha says, "The history of this earth has been placed under the shield of misfortune for the past half a century. The violence and the suffering of the Near-East separates its people from themselves and from the possibilities of intellectual development from lucidity and progress.

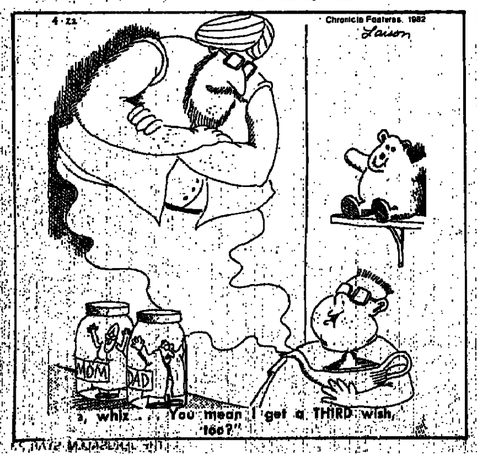
"They live and function according to this suffering, between what they are and what they believe they are. They are torn between their profound tendencies towards love of life, tolerance and peace and their external behaviour which is produced by the conflicts that impinge on them.

The little black box for the body's defenses

By Riad H. Dabbas
Star Staff Writer

THE IMMUNE system is a vigilant sentinel that maintains the body's integrity by discriminating between what is part of it and what is foreign and therefore potentially dangerous. When the immune system encounters foreign substances (antigens) such as bacteria, viruses, dust, or pollen, it acts to destroy or render them harmless.

For years most physicians and medical researchers have thought of the immune system as independent of psychological factors or other brain-related influences. Today, however, we have strong evidence of a close, relatively unexplored relationship between the immune system and the central nervous system.



The most recent data come from studies at the University of Rochester Medical Centre. Robert Ader, professor of psychiatry, at the university and his colleagues found that they could condition the immune system of rats to react to flavoured water as it does to a chemical that suppresses the system's normal production of antibody. Since conditioning is a learning process that depends on biochemical changes in the brain, they conclude that the immune system is to some extent controlled by the brain.

This research grew out of efforts to explain an unexpected result they had obtained in an earlier series of conditioning experiments involving taste aversion in animals. They had offered rats saccharin-flavoured water and at the same time given them a drug that induces temporary gastrointestinal upset.

As expected, the rats developed an aversion to the saccharin-flavoured water after a single pairing of the water with the drug. Unexpectedly, some of the animals died when they were repeatedly given the flavoured water even though they were not injected with the drug. As it happened, the drug they used was cyclophosphamide, a substance that also suppresses the immune system, reducing the antibody response normally elicited by an antigen.

Perhaps then, the explanation for the rats demise was that they had inadvertently conditioned their immune system to respond to the flavoured water, as it did to the immuno-suppressive drug, reducing the animals' resistance to disease.

To test that hypothesis, they conditioned other groups of rats in the same way, pairing an injection of cyclophosphamide with saccharin-flavoured water. Then they treated all the rats with sheep's red blood cells, an antigen commonly used in animal experiments. At the same time, they injected one group with the drug. As expected, those animals showed a suppression of antibody production. A second group, not treated with the drug and not given saccharin-flavoured water, had a normal antibody response. They exposed a third group to the flavoured water but did not inject them with the drug; their antibody response was significantly less than normal. These animals had learned, after just one conditioning trial, to react to flavoured water in much the same ways as they did to a chemical that suppressed their immune response.

The fact that learning could alter antibody response in this manner demonstrates a clear, direct link between the brain and the immune system.

Other studies support this relationship. They have shown, for example, that psychological factors, including stress, can affect the working of the immune system. Roger Bartrop, an Australian researcher, found that the death of a husband or wife can lessen the grieving spouse's immunological competence. At the 1980 meeting of the American Psychiatric Association in San Francisco, a research team from Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York City reported similar results.

Further evidence of a relationship between the central nervous system and immunity comes from a group of Swiss researchers who have shown that the two systems develop interdependently. The failure of one to mature properly affects the development of the other.

These and other findings suggest that information is constantly being transmitted from the immune system to the brain and vice versa.

Physicians and psychiatrists have known for years that psychological factors can affect physical health. Clinicians have reported, for example, that in particularly sensitive asthmatics, the slight of an artificial flower can trigger a full-blown asthmatic attack. Recent experimental evidence that conditioning can affect immunity further dramatizes the impact learning can have on the immune system.

As they learn more about how the brain and immune system interact, they should come to understand normal development and again more fully and improve their ability to treat a variety of diseases, including allergies, autoimmune disorders, and the persistent problems associated with the transplanting of tissues and organs. It may also provide for better understanding and treatment of nervous and mental disease.

Iktimal Istatieh discusses patchwork with one of her students

A dedicated weaver

'Art is for giving'

By Kathy Kakish
Star Staff Writer

ART AND craft teacher Iktimal Istatieh graduated from University in 1965 but she still considers herself to be a student. "One remains a student as long as one continues working on his or her subject of interest," she says.

A student's work — flowers made with pumpkin seeds

And Iktimal's best teachers are the students she has been teaching at the Islamic College in Amman for the past 15 years. She says that it is their work and their mistakes that give her new ideas to work on.

Iktimal studied handcrafts at the Tereh Institute in Ramallah and was then fortunate enough to receive a scholarship to complete her studies in Norway.

She says "I moved from one section of the handcrafts department at the university to another to learn how all types of work were done."

Now she is handing on her skills in weaving, embroidery, stencil painting, flower-making pottery and carving to her students at the Islamic College.

Iktimal teaches classes ranging from the second preparatory to the second secondary level. As she teaches she takes into consideration the age as well as the likes and dislikes of her students. "They prefer handcrafts to painting" she says "so I concentrate on handwork."

She gives her younger classes the basics of sewing and then asks each girl to make some patchwork out of discarded clothes found at home. Iktimal teaches them as they work — the theory of handcraft co-exists with its practice. "I take each patchwork and point out the good and bad points it has concerning the general design and colour matching," she explains.

Basic skills

She gradually gives them more complicated work as they move from one class to the next "I make sure that by this gradual shifting, the girls will continue to enjoy this kind of work rather than considering it a burden," she says. "I never show my students any sample for the work I assign them because I don't want them to copy or imitate anything I want them to use their own imagination and initiative," she adds.

Iktimal believes extracurricular activities such as handcrafts, are very important. Her teaching experience has shown her that an artistically creative student is usually good, if not outstanding, in school work. "Art makes one become more organised — and an organised person is always a successful one," she believes. "Anyone can be artistically productive, those who are not were not given the proper supervision or orientation by their elders," she adds.

Awareness

Iktimal finds that people are more aware of handwork, and especially tapestry weaving, than when she graduated.

"They were only used to the traditional king of handcraft such as flower arrangement and embroidery," she comments. "Now I feel that my students like the work they do and I am quite proud of them for their artistic ability and their genuine respect for art."

She also gives private lessons to groups of women. She says that adults are becoming more interested in handicraft work, especially tapestry weaving and free embroidery. "I believe that this is due to the growing artistic awareness of people in general, and housewives tend to find such work as a pleasant past time that beautifies their homes," she says.

Art is giving

Unlike most artists, Iktimal does not participate in exhibitions or sell any of her work. "I once sold four pieces of my work, and participated in two exhibitions years ago," she says. "But I have found that art is giving, and not to be traded in for money.

"If a piece of art is bought by someone who does not fully appreciate the work, then all the delicate feelings and meaning put into it will be totally lost," she says. This is why she presents all her work as gifts to her relatives and aquaintances. "Whenever I feel that a guest of mine really likes one of the pieces I have at home, I usually give it to her as a present when I return her visit."

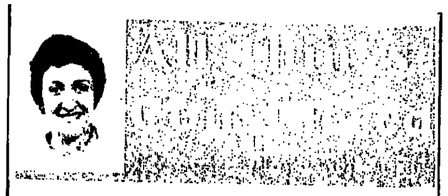
And although Iktimal is active in introducing new handcrafts to her students, she is also very concerned at maintaining traditional crafts.

Three years ago the Ministry of Social Development opened a centre to encourage a revival of old embroidery skills. Iktimal joined in the work of copying the work found on old dresses and modifying it for new dresses.

"Every woman should own at least one traditional dress," she says, "for it is part of our heritage and without our heritage we will be quite lost."

And to have an idea about other people's heritage Iktimal uses her summer vacations to tour foreign countries. So far, she has visited 15 European and Asian countries. But it appears that Iktimal also likes to tour for the sake of touring. "When I was a child, I wanted to grow up to be a roving journalist so that I could go from one country to the next — but life doesn't work out that way," she says philosophically.

Iktimal is the mother of two — a son and a daughter. And now her 13-year-old daughter, Hanadi, is following in her mother's steps. She already helps Iktimal with the handcraft work she does and she has begun to try her hand at painting.



The need for trees

NO SOONER have we moved into the new year than we have a special day on the calendar. January 15th is Jordan's Arbor Day. It is time to get the shovels out.

Every year various clubs and organisations go out to barren lands armed with their shovels and a supply of seedlings in black plastic bags to aid in reforestation efforts. Thousands of trees are planted every year through this voluntary work. The Department of Agriculture furnishes the trees, and little by little, over the years, Jordan is beginning to look greener.

Reforestation has its very practical side in that it is a method of preventing soil erosion and holds back the encroachment of the desert. Lands covered with trees retain soil moisture.

The trees that are planted in this coming week, if they aren't eaten by goats, will stretch out the borders of present forests just a little further or transform a barren hill into a spot of increasing greenery as time passes. If you have taken a drive out into the Jordanian countryside, you may have noticed where past Arbor Day efforts are now showing results. Trees in a given area are of about the same height and size indicating that they are the same age, planted at the same time, whereas a stand of trees that had grown of their own accord would contain an assortment of sizes.

The act of planting a tree takes us, if only for a few moments, out of our daily thoughts — what we're having for dinner, how to get to work on time tomorrow, whether the tyres on the car will last through this winter or can we afford to buy new ones what with the water and electricity rates coming up at the end of the month, and will our kids pass their mid-term exams, what to do about this nasty head cold — to a glimpse of the future.

The spindly little twigs that are pressed into the earth this coming week will grow slowly over the years. If you help to plant some of these seedlings then you might find that from time to time you wonder how the small trees are doing. If you live permanently in Jordan or will be staying a period of years then you will have the chance to return to the spot to check on progress, and have a picnic under their shade. If you are here for only a short while then in your future travels you will be reminded of the time you spent here and the trees that grow in your absence, giving others an outing spot.

We need trees just to be there, to walk among them.

The American poet Ralph Waldo Emerson expressed it this way —

When the pine tosses its cones
To the song of its waterfall tones,
Who speeds to the woodland walks?
To birds and trees who talks?
Caesar of his leafy Rome,
There the poet is at home.
He goes to the river-side, —
Not hook nor line hath he;
He stands in the meadows wide, —
Nor gun nor scythe to see.

Would you believe it?

UK DENTIST Derek Allen ran his family home like a ship with himself as captain whose word was law, but his marriage ended up on the rocks in the divorce court.

In 29 years, Allen, who believed his wife should do as she was told, never asked her opinion, remembered her birthday or their wedding anniversary and never took her and their six children on holiday, or even a day's outing.

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THE EQUAL opportunity act of the Australian state of Victoria should be revised to say that women are more likely to become pregnant than men, according to the Victoria Equal Opportunity Board.

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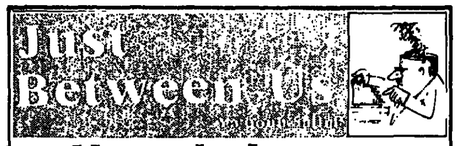
POLICE in New York state say they have arrested a man who threw ripped $100, $50 and $20 bills out his car window claiming he didn't need the money.

Police said the man claims to have thrown $20,000 most of the bills torn in half, out of his car throughout the area during the past two weeks. Police said about $2,000 have been recovered.

• • •

WHEN Canberra schoolboy Georgie Potter found a wallet containing £386, he returned it to its owner, and was rewarded with an apple. Disgusted neighbours in the Australian city chanted abuse for four hours at the owner of the wallet, until he gave in. He gave the boy a second apple.



Dreaded year

LEAVING THE house on the first day of the year, I placed a hair across the door handle — laid there with great care so that I would be able to tell if it was disturbed by anyone entering the house during my absence. I tiptoed gingerly down the walk, peered around the corner and whispered, "psst! Hey, taxi!" Since I was afraid to let myself be seen in the open it took a very long time before I was able to catch a ride to work this way.

However, I was finally able to catch a taxi and whisper my destination in the driver's ear. I then remained on the floor of the car, in the back, for the whole trip — but I couldn't be sure that nobody had seen me. Therefore, before I got out of the car I donned a black trenchcoat and wide, floppy-brimmed hat, seeking to evade identification. Coming into the office it was fairly easy to get past the receptionist by ducking below the window. But then came the hard part: Lying down and inching myself across the floor until I reached the back staircase.

Before starting up the stairs on my hands and knees, I took a good look around to make sure that non-one was watching. My plans were almost ruined when one of my colleagues walked by on his way out the door — but again, I avoided him by hiding under an oily tarpaulin that was lying in the corner. When the coast was clear, I continued my slow progress. Reaching my own room finally, I made my stealthy way across the floor, stood upright and then sat down at my desk. I had made it through the first few hours of 1984.

The day was a wearying one. The practice of constantly looking over one's shoulder to detect inquisitive Thought Police spies can produce a painful crick in the neck, as I discovered. And bending over your desk to conceal everything you're writing is just as hard on the back. But for mental fatigue, nothing beats trying to catch your co-workers when they are using Newspeak and Doublethink, and to interpret what they really mean, with the newfound knowledge that you are surrounded by the minions of Ingsoc.

Coming home after that terrible day I let myself in by the back door of the building — and was relieved to find the hair still in its place on the door handle of my flat. But then I remembered — in "1984" Winston Smith is deceived by the same trick, when his diabolical pursuers are so careful they even replace a bit of dust after searching his home. I quavered and peered about me — how could I be sure?

After a search in which I satisfied myself that there was nobody in the place, I opened the closet where I had stashed my television the night before. I knew that I couldn't avoid Big Brother's watchful eye forever, but for that day, at least, I had been determined that he should not use his electronic snoopers on me. I sighed, switched on the TV and sat down, resigning myself to the mind control that was to be my fate now that the dreaded year had started.

That's funny, I thought. The news report doesn't seem to be in Newspeak; and it requires no more doublethink than usual to understand it. Could Big Brother be playing an especially subtle game, trying to lull my suspicions and catch me off guard in a disloyal thought? After all, it is 1984.

It was then, after the news, that it happened. The programme turned to a variety show, which would last until after midnight, they said. This would jolly us along to ring in the New Year. And I remembered — December has 31 days.

All roads lead to the new year

• New Year's Eve was celebrated in many ways among different people this year. One of those ways was a "sharing" party involving eight couples and held at the home of **Monir** and **Wadad Kfoury.**

The Kfoury's were joined by **Ghabi** and **Hayyat Rishdan, Mr. and Mrs. Hassan Rida, Joseph and Leila Khater, Mr. and Mrs. Ouquase, Mr. and Mrs. Tarraf, Mr. and Mrs. Shouelry** and **Fouad** and **Najwa Kefayeh.**

They enjoyed a delicious supper then danced, sang, played games and won prizes until the new year was well underway.

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• Queen Alia International airport has witnessed much activity over the Christmas-New Year periods with coming and going for family reunions.

Newlywed **Najl Andraos** arrived with his wife **Nada** and mother **Wadad** to visit his sister **Najwa,** brother in-law **Fouad Kefayeh** and niece and nephew **Serena** and **Nijad.**

Nada and Najl Andraos and Fouad Kefayeh enjoy the winter sunshine at Aqaba.

The Andraos spent a family Christmas and then took the chance for some sightseeing as it was Nada's first visit here.

Najl and **Joe Shouery** arrived from school in Lebanon to spend the holiday with their parents **Mr. and Mrs. Elil Shouery.** Mr. Shouery is Middle East Airlines manager in Jordan.

Those going outside Jordan for their reunions included **Mr. and Mrs. Antoine Tarraf, Mr. and Mrs. Emile Batrouni** and **Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Azzar.**

The New Year wedding group, bride and groom Belinda and Steven with, from left to right, Mr and Mrs Downes, bridesmaid Caroline Downes, groomsman John Mauti and bridesmaid Rose MacMahon.

• • • • •

• **Belinda Susan Downes** and **Steven Andrew Kause** chose a very special way to celebrate this New Year — they were married at the Church of the Redeemer in Jabal Amman.

The marriage was performed by the Reverend **Keith Fraser Smith** in an hour-long ceremony and American Ambassador **Richard Viets** and his wife **Marina,** and Australian Vice-consul **Phil Henry** and his wife were there to see the knot tied.

The bride's father **Julian Downes** is project manager at Sogex International's housing project at Abu-Nuseir and there was a big turn out of Sogex staff for the occasion. They included **Mr. Suhail Halabi** and **Mrs. Halabi, Mr. Manuell Azzam** and his wife **Rima, Mr. Bassam Sawaquid** and his wife **Randa** and **Mr. and Mrs. Brian Wilson.**

Because Steven is in the US marines the couple were greeted with a very impressive Marine guard of honour as they left the church.

The wedding ceremony was followed by a buffet luncheon and a cocktail party and Steven's Marine sword came in very handy for cutting the wedding cake. The bride's father, the groom and the best man made the traditional speeches and the happy couple left for their honeymoon.

After they left Mr. Downes announced that the party would continue and the guests settled in to welcoming 1984 in style.

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• AMMAN WILL see another flurry of high-finance activity when two of the United States' top bankers pay a brief visit here this week. **Mr. Harry Taylor,** the President of Manufacturers Hanover Corporation, and **John Zutter** — Senior Vice President and Regional Manager for the Middle East and North Africa — will arrive from New York on Saturday in the course of a regional tour they are making to keep in touch with developments in Mr. Zutter's area of purview.

One of their activities in Amman will be to act as hosts at a reception to bid farewell to Mr **Carmelo L. Fotl,** Manufacturers Hanover Corporation representative in Amman and to welcome his successor Mr **Hussein B. El-Tawil.**

Mr El-Tawil says that while they are here Mr Taylor and Mr Zutter will also call on some banks and speak with the government authorities concerned with finance matters.

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• American film producer **Marilyn Perry** seems to be enjoying success after success with her film "Jordan, Land of Heritage."

The film has just been awarded a Bronze medal at the 1983 International Film and TV Festival of New York, bringing its award tally to five!

"Jordan, Land of Heritage," narrated by Sir John *Gielgud,* travels to the spots and places of interest in the Hashemite Kingdom. Sequences were filmed at Petra, Jerash, *Wadi* Rum, Aqaba, Amman and other locations. Ms Perry and a staff of 15 professionals spent four months in the Middle East filming this production. This film was presented to the Jordanian government as a gift by its sponsor, the Dutco Group.

Ms Perry is president of the company bearing her name, and is recognized as one of the foremost film producers in the US specializing in international affairs. Her series of programmes entitled "International Byline" is produced at studios in the United Nations building in New York and is distributed for broadcast by television stations throughout North America.

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CALENDAR

Exhibitions

The Jordan National Gallery presents a "**Senegalese Modern Tapestry Exhibition**"
Continues until Sunday 15 January

The **Ministry of Tourism** presents an exhibition of paintings from **Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states.**
At the Royal Cultural Centre until Thursday 5 January.

This will be followed by an exhibition of work by Jordanian painter **Euphemia Rizk**

Exhibition runs from 10 until 20 January

"**The Orientalists**" an exhibition of 19th and 20th century paintings continues at the **Alia Art Gallery** until the end of January.

The **French Cultural Centre** presents an exhibition on the **Beauborg Centre** in Paris

The exhibition runs from Tuesday 10 January until Tuesday 17 January

Films

The **American Centre** presents "**The Hustler**" (2 hours 15 minutes) starring Paul Newman, Jackie Gleason, Piper Laurie and George Scott.

Thursday 5 January at 7.00 pm
Sunday 8 January at 8.00 pm

The **Goethe Institute** presents "**Celeste**" a 1981 film starring E. von Mattes and Jurgen Arndt.
Wednesday 11 January at 8.00 pm

The **French Cultural Centre** presents "**L'apprenti Salaud**" starring Robert Lamoureux and George Wilson
Thursday 5 and Saturday 7 January at 7.30 pm.

Lectures

The **American Centre** presents a lecture on **William Faulkner** by **Dr. James Meriwether.**

Dr. Meriwether is a Professor of English at the University of South Carolina and a specialist on Faulkner

Sunday 8 January at 6.00 pm

On Thursday 12 January at 6.00 pm the **American Centre** will present the lecture "**New communication technologies: Implications for Jordan and the Arab World**" by **Dr. Douglas Boyd.**

Dr. Boyd is chairman of the Department of Communication at the University of Delaware.

Britain's 'Royals' suffer from the public gaze

A cover picture of the Prince and Princess of Wales doubles circulation

• One British family has not been enjoying its Christmas and the New Year this year. In Britain this is traditionally a season for private family gatherings. That tradition underlines the protest made this week on behalf of **Queen Elizabeth** that the royal family had been continually harassed by the press over the holiday period.

The royal family were staying at Sandringham, the Queen's large personal estate in rural Norfolk, and it seems that it was an estate virtually under seige. Hordes of press photographers, many equipped with long-range cameras and two-way radio sets, were encamped around the edge of the estate. The police arrested one who intruded into the grounds.

And so the Queen, through her assistant press secretary, asked the editors of the newspapers in Fleet street to withdraw their photographers, which all of them have now done. But that still leaves the problem of the freelance photographers who can earn huge sums of money for exclusive pictures of what they call 'the royals' from newspapers and magazines in Britain and on the continent of Europe.

The heart of the problem is the continuing world fascination with the British royal family. Last year, one women's magazine said that it doubled its circulation whenever it carried a cover picture of the **Princess of Wales,** the wife of **Prince Charles.**

Not all British newspapers are interested in this form of journalism but for the few popular tabloids, who are locked in a fierce circulation battle, pictures of 'the royals' seem a sure recipe for success. In principle the Queen does not object to this. What she and her family do object to very strongly is the intrusion into their private lives at times when they wish to be left alone.

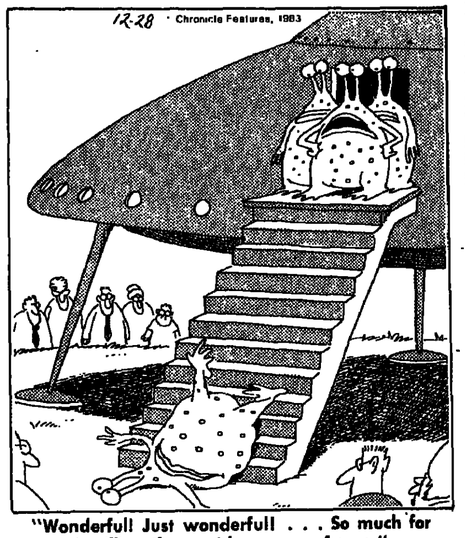
Last month, the Press Council censured one tabloid paper 'The Sun' for publishing a report about the Queen's second son, **Prince Andrew,** and the actress **Koo Stark,** under the headline: 'The astonishing inside secrets of the fun-loving royals - Queen Koo romps at the palace.' The report was based on the so-called revelations of a former Buckingham Palace servant, who had breached his contract by talking to the press. The royal family went to the courts to obtain an injunction to stop the newspaper continuing its 'revelations'.

There has been continual harassment of all the queen's children, particularly her youngest son, **Prince Edward,** who is now a student at Cambridge University. Indeed some of the prince's fellow students have threatened to deal with the press photographers themselves if they intrude too much into theirs and the prince's private lives.

However, there is little that either the Press Council or the Royal family can do about the most persistent press 'snoopers', other than appeal to the better nature of the newspaper editors and their readers. To ensure the press is out of the question.

And it is equally ruled out that the Queen and her family should live in such a way that they are screened by security men from the public gaze, as is the president of the United States.

It is part of the British way of life that the Queen, when she is not fulfilling her public duties, has every right to behave like any other English wife and mother.



"Wonderful! Just wonderful . . . So much for instilling them with a sense of awe."

"Fletcher, you fool! . . . The gate! The gate!"

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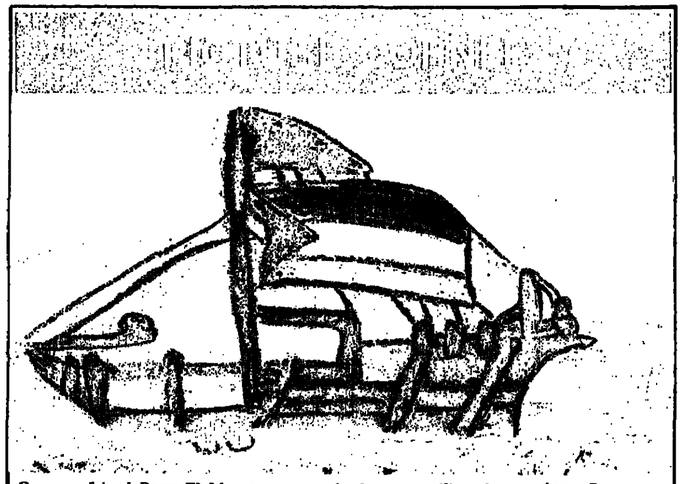


Our new friend Reem El-Mousa seems to be fond of sailing, but to where, God only knows. Reem is 13 years old. She is in the second preparatory class.
Thank you Reem

The genie grabs the Lumberman and shakes him roughly.

The Lumberman

The lumberman was lost in the dark forest and thought he would never get out of it. He thought of his family the way they would lead their life in case he didn't get back home. Suddenly, he saw a feeble light coming from a lonely cottage and headed towards it.

In his excitement he tripped over a rock on the path and hurt his foot. He wrapped the wound with a piece of cloth and moved on towards the light. Soon it was clear to him that the light came from a lonely cottage. He hurried towards the cottage, and shouted upon its inhabitants. A feeble woman opened the door and stepped out. She hurried towards him and urged him to leave the place right away. "If she sees you, you will never be released and you will meet your doom," she said. Lutfi was tired and was determined to have the security that the cottage could afford him for the night, therefore he did not listen to the woman.

"Who is there," asked a voice from within the cottage.

"It is me, Lumberman Lutfi..." he called back.

"Come in, stranger," said the voice. Lutfi stepped into the cottage and at once realized his mistake in not listening to the advice of the feeble woman. For in front of him was an ugly genie.

He tried to turn back towards the door, but she grabbed him and shook him roughly. The act made the Lumberman feel dizzy. The genie then locked him up in a cage. He begged the genie to set him free. "I have a wife and seven children who need me very much. I will give you anything you want if only you set me free", he said. The only reply he received was a loud shout telling him to keep quiet.

The woman who had tried to warn Lutfi began to plead with the genie to set him free.

"You are no longer loyal to me," said the genie.

Then the genie mumbled and the voice of the feeble woman was heard from a dark corner in the room. "Help, help, oh, help me," and then there was quiet.

Lutfi realized that the genie had devoured the woman and that he would be the genie's next meal.

As it turned out, he was to wait for sometime before that was to happen. The days passed dreadfully. The genie watched Lutfi as he began to lose weight and become very weak. His only meal was a piece of bread, enough to keep him alive.

One day, the genie poked a stick at Lutfi who held it and broke it into pieces. The genie did that to see how strong Lutfi was. Everyday she repeated the same act and on every occasion Lutfi broke the stick. Then Lutfi decided to see what will happen if he didn't break the stick.

... to be continued next week

ODDITIES

Water-spiders with their silken diving bells. These chambers are open at the bottom.

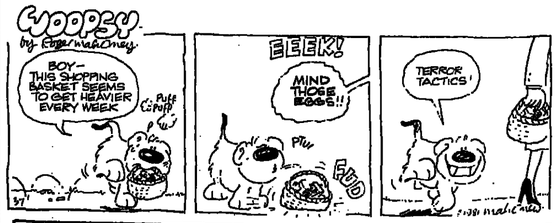
What creatures use a "diving-bell"?

TO FIND the water-spider it is not necessary to go across the seas. It can be found in ponds, especially in the British Isles, for it inhabits fresh water.

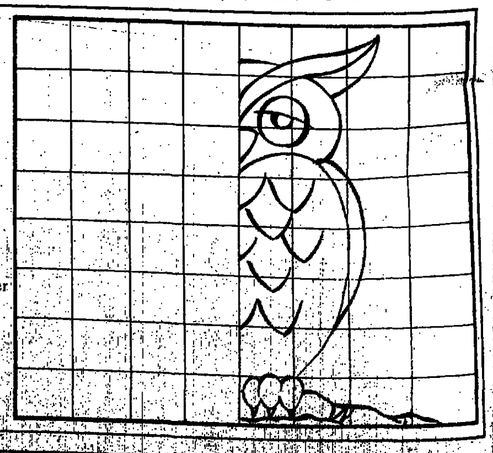
***Among the water-weeds it weaves a web in the shape* of a bell, with the opening downward. Now the spider wants to make this bell water-tight so that it can live there and hatch its eggs. It can get food from the insects which it catches in the water; but it wants oxygen in its bell. This is how it supplies its house.**

Coming to the surface, it thrusts out its abdomen and wraps it in a bubble of air. It keeps this bubble in position by means of its hind legs until it comes to the mouth of the bell; then it lets it go, and it mounts to the upper end of the bell and takes the place of a certain amount of water.

Then the spider goes to the surface and collects another bubble, and then another and so on till the *web is filled with* air. That is how it makes for itself a home where it can hatch its eggs.



Using the squares as a guide, draw the other half of the owl



Intimate Stars

By Henry Arnold

Week commencing 5 January, 1984

CAPRICORN — December 21st to January 19th

You could be rather uncertain in the romantic field, which of two members of the opposite sex to select. You would be very well advised to ask the advice of an older person. You could gain a great deal of happiness during the coming week, owing to the attentiveness and thoughtful attitude shown towards you by a member of your family. This is not a week to get all het up should you be told some gossip about a friend.

AQUARIUS — January 20th to February 18th

In order for an engagement or marriage to run happily and smoothly during this coming week, one must show trust, so do try to curb your jealousy a little more. You may find yourself in two minds whether to make a change where your job of work is concerned this week, but all the portents are that you should stay put for the moment.

PISCES — February 19th to March 20th

This is a week in which you will find quite a lot of people around you will be wanting and willing to co-operate with you, so do not be too independent to accept offers of help that may come your way. You could be sorely tempted to overspend where cash is concerned during this coming week, due to the fact that you have a happy week, and should be finding yourself in some extremely gay company.

ARIES — March 21st to April 20th

Someone in an executive position at your job of work will either leave or be changed, and this should do a lot towards making your normal daytime routine happier and brighter. A loved one could be faced with a slight difficulty and you should be able to help them out with this, by showing them a subtle solution to the problem. They in turn will show you not only how highly they think of you, but also the amount of respect they hold.

TAURUS — April 21st to May 20th

This is a week to keep your eyes open so that you do not miss any chances, and opportunity should present itself to you in quite a big way. There appears to be quite a lot of juggling for good positions around you in your working life, and you yourself have nothing to worry about, for you are at the moment in a very lucky period. Your cash position appears to be on the upward trend now.

GEMINI — May 21st to June 20th

A new and rather romantic friendship could be occupying most of your coming week, and you should be feeling extremely happy about this, with very little time to worry about other things. Independent as you are, it might be as well for you to remember that you cannot do everything on your own, so you will be wise in order to avoid becoming depressed, to ask help of other people, who you should find very willing.

CANCER — June 21st to July 21st

Owing to the fact that you should be able to get a domestic problem out of the way this coming week, you should find that you have more chance to get out and about and enjoy yourself with peace of mind. Any small obstacles which you may have been meeting up with in a romantic affair of late, should now be things of the past, and you should be happier in consequence, and be able to go ahead in a more ambitious manner.

LEO — July 22nd to August 21st

There could be talk of change of your residence which could be very fortunate, plus the fact that the generosity of a very close friend should more than delight you. You can afford to take just a few more chances during this coming week, for it very clearly looks as though money affairs should be taking a turn very much for the better for you. Someone who thinks the world of you could give you a gift this week.

VIRGO — August 22nd to September 21st

During the first part of your week, there could be just a little tension in the emotional field, but from Tuesday onwards, not only could you receive some good news, but affairs move into a much smoother channel for you. There could be a celebration not only of a birthday, but also a promotion businesswise towards the end of this week, and you will find that in consequence,

LIBRA — September 22nd to October 22nd

Your health is much better, and consequently, your ideas will be brighter and more promising. There is little doubt that success is almost knocking at your door. News that you can expect to have a visitor who comes quite a distance, could make the last four days of this week busy and happy ones that you will remember for quite a long time. A romantic association which has been a little tense should take a turn for the better.

SCORPIO — October 23rd to November 21st

You may find yourself having to be a little firm with an *older person who will show a little selfishness regarding* your having formed a new friendship with someone of the opposite sex. You could not be in a better week to meet favourable conditions where most activities are concerned, plus the fact that you will be able to show someone in authority that you are extremely capable this week.

SAGITTARIUS — November 22nd to December 20th

By taking the advice of a partner who appears to have the Midas touch during this coming week, you should find that a chance you take on something that is not all that certain should turn out to be more than successful. Where home life is concerned, a relative of yours will show their appreciation in no uncertain manner when you do them a favour that they ask of you without question.

Birthday Information Charts

Thursday 5 January

Birthday Greetings to You. During the next few weeks, you may be a little anxious about some family problems, but just as long as you are prepared to try and sort things out, you will find that very soon, family affairs will be running smoothly once again.

You may receive a very pleasant surprise which will affect your position financially, and this should make you feel extremely secure. Don't hesitate to take advice where your job of work is concerned, for promotion is in the air for you in the very near future.

Altogether, the coming twelve months should be extremely happy for you.

Friday 6 January

Birthday Greetings to You. A journey of some distance which it seems very likely that you will make towards the end of April, could bring much happiness, for you could meet someone who holds quite an attraction for you, and this may have a great bearing on your future.

It appears that you have been worrying too much about your health just lately, and this may have affected your nerves, but there is every indication that you should now begin to relax a little more, and thus feel fitter, stronger and happier.

Where your career is concerned, all the indications are of much more success by the time you have reached May period, and you should soon be receiving dividends for all your past hard work.

Saturday 7 January

Birthday Greetings to You. By March to April period, romance should be very strongly in the air for the eligible ones amongst you, and just providing that you do not allow yourself to be ruffled by other people's jealousies, a very gay and happy social life is indicated for both the young and the elderly of you during the coming year.

Healthwise, you should be in very good condition throughout this coming year, which shows every sign of being a happy and prosperous one.

An opportunity to travel should come your way during the next twelve months, especially towards mid-March, resulting in the meeting up of longstanding and very good friends, and you should have a very enjoyable time.

Sunday 8 January

Birthday Greetings to You. Romance is extremely well starred in the coming months for the younger and eligible ones amongst you, whilst the married ones appear to get on a stronger and more agreeable footing than for some time past. The social field takes a good turn, so much so that engagements should simply pour in, bringing with them new and solid friendships.

There is just the chance that you could be approached by someone new with an idea which could mean a lot of thought and hard work coming from your direction, but you would do well to talk the matter over with someone near before coming to any decision.

Health and finances should both be extremely satisfactory during this year, but in the domestic field, there could be a few problems.

Taken all round, the coming year should be a very satisfactory one for you in most directions.

Monday 9 January

Birthday Greetings to You. You may have been feeling rather depressed because you have been working hard, and feel that it has not been appreciated, but all the indications are that by late March period, your past efforts should win recognition and bring forth both praise and compensation.

Romance is well starred for the eligible ones, and for the married folk, any children born in your family within the next five months could with time, be very talented in more than one way.

There should be an opportunity to travel and provided that you have taken good advice before you decide whether or not to take this opportunity, this should work out well, but in turn you may have to upset another plan which you have made.

Tuesday 10 January

Birthday Greetings to You. There are strong indications that this should be a much better year in the financial field. A little windfall around April or May could come your way, and you would be very well advised to put some of this money aside for a future event which could prove rather costly. However, apart from this, you should be able to treat yourself more than you have done of late.

There are signs that in the romantic field, you could find that a much stronger relationship could be formed between you and your opposite number. Even though they may not show it at times, they really do think a lot of you.

A good deal of hard work will be demand of you during this coming year.

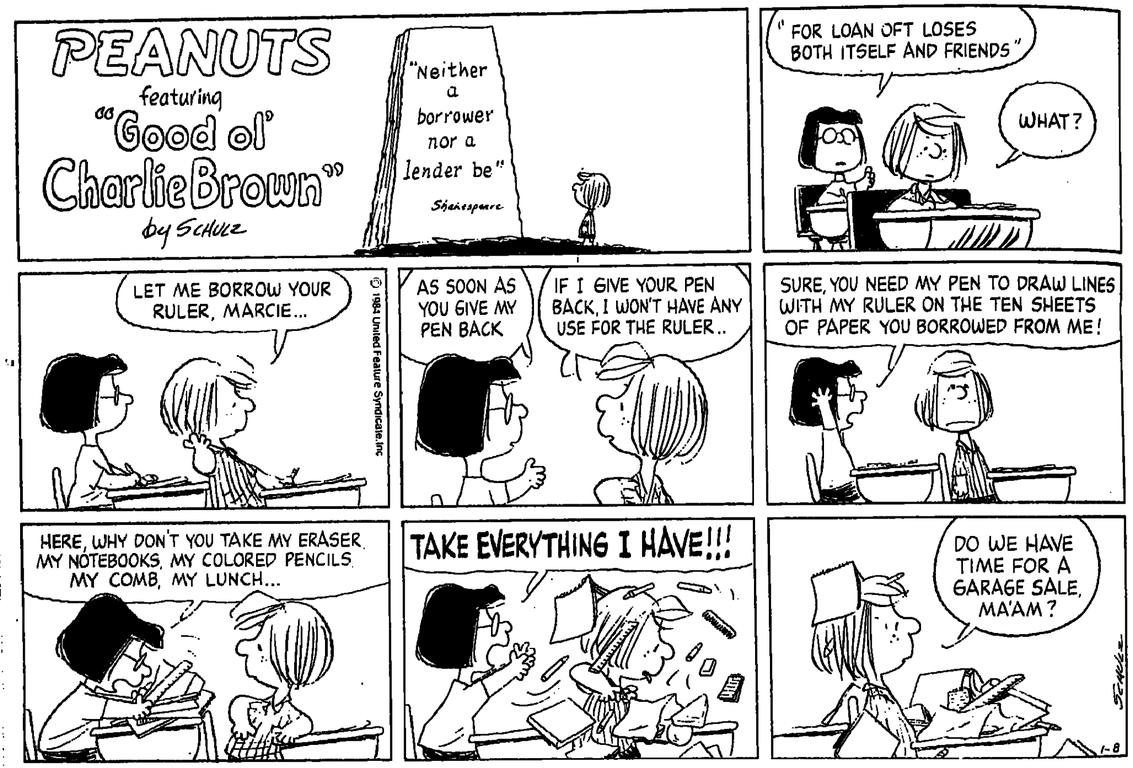
Wednesday 11 January

Birthday Greetings to You. Your personal life will run much more smoothly than of late. For the single ones, there is every sign of marriage and as long as you don't allow your possessive tendencies to take over, you should have a very gay social year ahead.

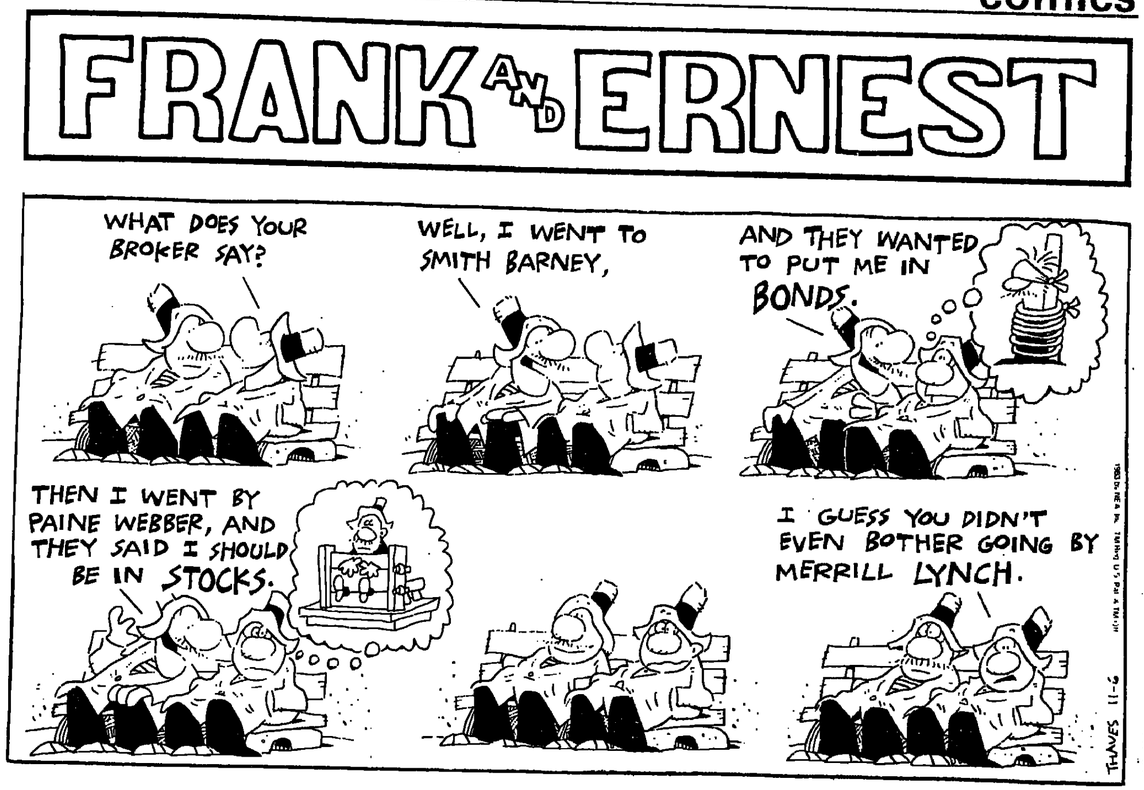
Where business is concerned, you should be able to make some very satisfactory progress and be complimented by a superior which will delight you.

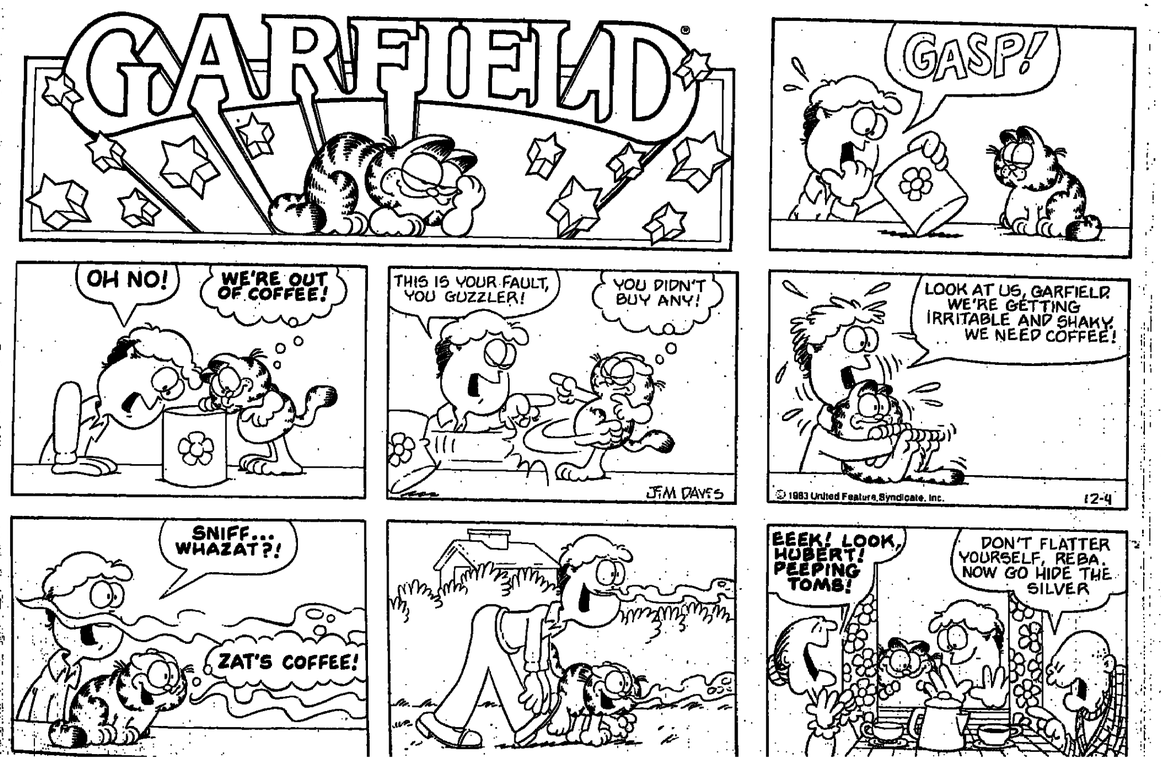
You should find that family affairs should be happy throughout the coming twelve months, and altogether, the year should be one of much satisfaction.

An older friend who is close to you may take up a good deal of your time during the next few months, and they could help you considerably with a new project which you are planning.


PEANUTS
featuring
"Good ol' CharlieBrown"
by SCHULZ
"Neither a borrower nor a lender be"
Shakespeare
" FOR LOAN OFT LOSES BOTH ITSELF AND FRIENDS "
WHAT?
LET ME BORROW YOUR RULER, MARCIE...
© 1984 United Feature Syndicate, Inc.
AS SOON AS YOU GIVE MY PEN BACK
IF I GIVE YOUR PEN BACK, I WON'T HAVE ANY USE FOR THE RULER..
SURE, YOU NEED MY PEN TO DRAW LINES WITH MY RULER ON THE TEN SHEETS OF PAPER YOU BORROWED FROM ME!
HERE, WHY DON'T YOU TAKE MY ERASER, MY NOTEBOOKS, MY COLORED PENCILS, MY COMB, MY LUNCH...
TAKE EVERYTHING I HAVE!!!
DO WE HAVE TIME FOR A GARAGE SALE, MA'AM?
1-8

HIGH IN THE TREES, A PAIR OF COLD BYES SPOTS ITS PREY!
Tarzan
by EDGAR RICE BURROUGHS
JANET GOODLIFE, THE FAMOUS ENGLISH ANTHROPOLOGIST, IS UNAWARE OF THE DANGER HOVERING ABOVE HER.
(MANGANI! JANET, NO!)
A PAIR OF GRAY EYES HAS OBSERVED THE DANGER THAT JANET GOODLIFE IS IN. STEEL MUSCLES SPRING INTO ACTION.
SUDDENLY, THE YOUNG ANTHROPOLOGIST IS WATCHING A SCENE FROM THE DAWN OF MAN.
BRAVO! TARZAN OF THE APES, I PRESUME.
I ALWAYS BELIEVED YOU WERE MORE THAN A FIGURE FROM POPULAR FICTION.
JANET GOODLIFE, I PRESUME. YOUR FAME PRECEDES YOU. I HEARD YOU SPEAKING THE LANGUAGE OF THE GREAT APES. DO YOU PLAN TO TELL THE WORLD ABOUT THEM?
YES! I HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO SCIENCE TO STUDY YOUR GREAT APES. THEY ARE UNIQUE.


FRANK AND ERNEST
WHAT DOES YOUR BROKER SAY?
WELL, I WENT TO SMITH BARNEY,
AND THEY WANTED TO PUT ME IN BONDS.
THEN I WENT BY PAINE WEBBER, AND THEY SAID I SHOULD BE IN STOCKS.
I GUESS YOU DIDN'T EVEN BOTHER GOING BY MERRILL LYNCH.
THAVES 11-6


GARFIELD
GASP!
OH NO!
WE'RE OUT OF COFFEE!
THIS IS YOUR FAULT, YOU GUZZLER!
YOU DIDN'T BUY ANY!
JIM DAVIS
LOOK AT US, GARFIELD. WE'RE GETTING IRRITABLE AND SHAKY. WE NEED COFFEE!
© 1983 United Feature Syndicate, Inc.
12-4
SNIFF... WHAZAT?!
ZAT'S COFFEE!
EEEK! LOOK, HUBERT! PEEPING TOMB!
DON'T FLATTER YOURSELF, REBA. NOW GO HIDE THE SILVER

entertainment

TV This Week

AFTER JORDAN Television has finally resolved the problem of what to do about the last two episodes of 'The Secret Army', it is now ready to move on to its new Tuesday-evening presentation: 'The Jewel in the Crown'. But this week on Tuesday at 9:20 pm. we will be seeing, instead, a documentary film calculated to soften up the audience for that epic serial of Victorian-era India. The film is entitled 'War of the Stinging Tiger', and nobody seems to be quite sure yet what it's all about.

Meanwhile, 'Play of the Week' continues at 10 p.m. with the second of the three mini-plays in Neil Simon's Plaza Suite'. The first one, 'Visitor from Mamorneck', was shown last Tuesday; the second one is called 'Visitor from Hollywood'. (Where the heck is Mamorneck?) 'Plaza Suite' winds up on Tuesday, 17 January with 'Visitor from Forest Hills'.

Now on Sundays, we're still slogging through 'The Thorn Birds', which true to its Australian provenance is proving to be both hard to digest and a little gamey. The last episode of the Colleen McCullough classic is due to be shown on 15 January, after which we will move on to another Best Seller. It has not yet been revealed which novel is threatened with serialisation next.

Above: A scene from 'The Jewel in the Crown'; and left: Hal Linden as Barney Miller and Steve Landesberg as Sgt. Dietrich in the popular comedy 'Barney Miller'

ABOUT TOWN

HOLIDAY INN HOTEL
Ambassador Suite — (9 - 2 a.m.)
Dinner, Dancing and Show.
A Touch of Magic Showband; Alex Nebur & IDA Magic Show; Continental Romance
Duke Bar — (10:00 - 12:30) Live Music

AMMAN MARRIOTT HOTEL
Al Rababa Nightclub — (8:30 - 1:00)
Dinner, Dancing and Show.
Kontakt - All styles of music
Al Wallma Restaurant (7:30 - 11:30)
Kon Moto — classical music
Poolside Barbeque Buffet — (Sunday 8 - 11:00)

JORDAN INTERCONTINENTAL
Al Pasha Disco — (9 - 3 a.m.)
Saturday (6 - 8) Under 18 only.
Barbeque Nightly with live music (6:30 - 10:30)

AMMAN CROWN HOTEL
Al Khayma Disco — (9 - 2 a.m.)
Poolside - Thursday & Saturday (8:30 - morning)
Friday - Buffet

AMRA HOTEL
Shehrazad Disco — (9 - 3 a.m.)
Couples only closed Mondays

REGENCY PALACE HOTEL
Al Alali nightclub — (9 - 2 a.m.)
Dinner, Dancing and show.
Sequence Band

LA CESAR NIGHTCLUB — Jebel Lweibdeh
Dinner, Dancing and Live Music
Every Night — (9:00 - 3:00 a.m.)

JORDAN TELEVISION

	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
6:00	Le Village Dans les Nuages / L'Ecole des Fans	Le Pain Noir / La Mort d'un Piston	Itineraire Bonjour Bon Appetit / Feminin Present	Les Brigades du Tiger / Fabian de la Drome	Civilization du xx eme Siecle / La Poursuite des Etoiles	Champs Elysee Paris a Nous Deux / Magie et Illusion	Un Amour de Pluie / Le Desert de Tartare
7:00	NEWS IN FRENCH						
7:20	Varietes	Un Soir une Etoile	Magazine Sportif	Documentaire	Jeunesse	Varietes	Le Theatre de Bouvard
7:30	NEWS IN HEBREW						
7:45	The Sports School — Football	Economics Made Easy	Agriculture	Physics	First Aid	Varieties	Medical Report
8:00	NEWS IN ARABIC						
8:30	M*A*S*H	Three's Company	Buffalo Bill	Barney Miller	House Calls	Benson	Crown Court
9:00	Portraits of Power	Science Int'l	Towards 2000	100 Great Paintings	Science Int'l	Towards 2000	
9:20	Saturday Variety Show	Best Seller	Documentary	The Jewel in the Crown	Reilly, Ace of Spies	St. Elsewhere	
10:00	NEWS IN ENGLISH						
10:15	Feature Film (Play of the Month)	Jane Eyre	Hart to Hart	Play of the Week	Strike Force	Movie of the Week	Remington Steele
11:00 / 11:10	NEWS SUMMARY IN ARABIC						
12:00	Feature Film cont.					Movie cont.	

SOLUTIONS

Chess

1 B—K7. If ...Q—K8; 2 Kt—K5, or if Q—Q7; 2 Kt—Q4, or if Q—QR6; 2 Kt—QKt4, or if Q—KR1 ch; 2 Kt—Q8, or if Q—QB4; 2 B—Q8, or if Q×Kt ch; 2 R×Q, or if Q—KB3; 2 Q—QR5.

Target

Gipsy glyph grip lisp pigsty pith pithy pity plight prig ship slip spilt spilth spirt spiry spit split sprig SPRIGHTLY sprit spry strip stripy sylph thrips tipsy triglyph trip triply.

Crossword

CRYPTIC SOLUTION

ACROSS.—9, Holy smoke. 10, Up-heaval. 12, Sock. 13, L-egat-o. 14, R-eal-ise. 15, L-as-he'd out. 17, Ir-Rita-ted. 18, R-ailing. 20, N-ot o-ut. 21, Spin(rev). 24, Port-RA-it. 26, Beetroot. 28, O-U.S.-t. 29, E-state. 31, Feelers. 34, Dis-miss-al. 36, For-etaste. 38, Frees-i-a. 39, C-Ray-on. 40, Tart. 41, Sho-rt-cut. 42, Con-stable.

DOWN.—1, Whistler. 2, S-L-acks. 3, Love song. 4, Repast. 5, Hum-or-ist. 6, Chart-reuse. 7, Canas-ta. 8, L-AR-iat (rev). 11, Wee-ding. 16, E-xis-ts. 19, Irons. 20, Nut. 22, P-Rose. 23, A-RR-est. 25, Ass-i-stance. 26, Bee. 27, Told off. 30, Alloc-ate. 31, Forg-O-ing. 32, Sheathed. 33, Fissure (fisher). 35, Seet-he. 36, Franc-E. 37, Sh-abby

EASY SOLUTION

ACROSS.—9, Paramount. 10, Hoodlums. 12, Rave. 13, Assail. 14, Pawnees. 15, Delicious. 17, Interfere. 18, Confess. 20, Engine. 21, Blot. 24, Startled. 26, Presents. 28, Ogle. 29, Accent. 30, Galleon. 34, Stable lad. 36, Straw poll. 38, Reposes. 39, Reeled. 40, Sten. 41, Brethren. 42, Primitive.

DOWN.—1, Sporadic. 2, Travel. 3, Fusspots. 4, Steals. 5, Shilling. 6, Competence. 7, Glowers. 8, Impede. 11, Assents. 16, Cheery. 19, Natal. 20, End. 22, Lathe. 23, Bellow. 25, Lacklustre. 26, Pet. 27, Tonsure. 30, Enduring. 31, Gardenia. 32, No longer. 33, Closets. 35, Ampere. 36, Sleepy. 37, Outfit.

STAR JUNIOR CROSSWORD SOLUTION

ACROSS.—3, Joker. 6, Rack. 7, Otter. 8, Wood. 10 Pagan. 14, Wool. 15, Crags. 16, Plug. 17, Weary.

DOWN.—1, Draws. 2, Scoop. 4, Outlaw. 5 Eden 9, Dagger. 11, Noble. 12, Slugs. 13, True.

STARGUIDE

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre	669026
American Centre	41520
British Council	36147
French Centre	37009
Goethe Institute	41993
Soviet Centre	44203
Spanish Centre	24049
Turkish Centre	39777
Haya Arts Centre	665195

RENT-A-CAR

Avis	41350
Al Kimel	39861
Aqaba	662318
Beihorah	37830
Dairi	47683
Farah	37204
Firas	664137
Haddad	71707
Hisham	43730
Jona	44938
National	39197
Philadelphia	35191
Petra	37204
Satellite	25767
Silwadi	664245
Said	667439
Tyche	25700
TTT	665113
United	21999

HOTELS

Amman

Amra	815071
Holiday Inn	663100
Marriott	660100
Regency	660000
Crown	71256
Jerusalem Melia	665094
Intercontinental	41361
Ambassador	665186
Commodore	665181
Middle East	667150
Grand Palace	661121
Tyche	661114
International	841772
San Rock	813801
Jordan Tower	661361
Philadelphia	25191

Aqaba

Holiday Inn	2426
Al-Manar	4341
Al-Cazar	4131
Coral Beach	3521
Aquamarina	4333
Aqaba	2056

EMBASSIES

Algerian	41271-2
N Yemen	42381
Australian	43247
Bahraini	664148
Belgian	41683
British	41261
Bulgarian	38184
Chad	38140
Canadian	666124-6
Chilean	661336
Czechoslovak	665105
French	41273-4
German	41351
Greek	4233172
Haitian Consulate	23163
Hungarian	44916
Indian	37028
Iraqi	3933172
Italian	38185
Japanese	42486
Yugoslav	665107
Kuwaiti	41235
Lebanese	41381
Libyan	666118
Moroccan	41452
North Korean	666349
Omani	661131
Pakistani	22787
Chinese	666139
Philippine	661642
Polish	37153
Qatar	44331
Romanian	667738
Saudi Arabian	814154
South Korean	42268
Spanish	22140
Sudanese	24145
Swiss	44416
Syrian	41392
Tunisian	44307
Turkish	41251
U.S.A.	44371
U.A.E.	44369
USSR	41158
UNTSO	41341
UNRWA	38725
Danish Consulate	23324
Netherlands Consulate	37967
Norwegian	37164

AIRLINES

Alia	24131
Alitalia	25203
Austrian	37380
Aeroflot	41510
Air Canada	30879
Air France	37171
British	41430
Cathay Pacific	21688
Cyprus	38787
Egyptair	36011
Gulfair	665311
Interflug	30879
Iraqi	23648
Japan	40874
KLM	22175
Korean	24805
Kuwait	30144
Libyan	667320
Lufthansa	41305/44236
Malev	38836
MEA	36104
Olympic	24363
Pan Am	41959
Qantas	41873
Saudia	37714
Somalia	39540
Sabena	38836
SAS	22324
Singapore	22536
Swiss Air	42943
Syrian	22147
Thai	22324
Tarom	30380
Varig	36011
Yugoslav	37171

EMERGENCIES

Ambulance	193.75111
First aid, fire, police	199
Blood Bank	75121
Civil Defence Rescue	661111
Fire Headquarters	22090-3
Police Rescue	192-21111-37777
Police Headquarters	22090/3
Traffic Police	56190-1
Electric Power Co	36381-2
Municipal Water Service	71175-8

HOSPITALS

Hussein Medical Centre	813813.32
Khalidi Maternity	44281-4
Akleh Maternity Je Amman	42441
Malhas, J Amman	36140
Palestine, Shmeisani	664171-4
University Hospital	845845

MUSEUMS

Jordan National Gallery	30128
Alia Art Gallery	662181
Folklore Museum	51760
Popular Life of Jordan	51742
Archaeological Museum	38795
Military Museum	664240

GENERAL

Jordan television	73111
Radio Jordan	74111
Ministry of Tourism	42311
Hotel Complaints	666417
Price Complaints	661176
Amman Municipal Library	36111
University of Jordan Library	843555
ext	1135
Telephone information	12
Jordan and Middle East calls	10
Overseas Calls	17
Cable or Telegram	18
Repair Service	11
Queen Alia International Airport	08/53200/2

puzzles

Bridge

by Terence Reese

North
♠ K 4 3
♡ A 5 2
◊ 6 5
♣ A K 9 8 4

West
♠ J 8 7 6
♡ 9 7 6 4
◊ Q 8 2
♣ 7 3

East
♠ 9 5
♡ Q J 10
◊ A K J 10 7
♣ 6 5 2

South
♠ A Q 10 2
♡ K 8 3
◊ 9 4 3
♣ Q J 10

Dealer North, Love all.

"I have a feeling that I ought to have made that," said South, after going down in his contract of Four Spades. He had indeed failed to make a standard safety play.

North opened One Club and East came in with One Diamond. In South's system One Spade at this point would have shown a five-card suit, so he preferred a negative double. He showed his spades on the next round and finished in Four Spades.

West led a low diamond to his partner's King and East switched to the Queen of hearts. South won and drew three rounds of trumps, leaving West with the Jack. The declarer then played on clubs, but West was able to ruff the third round and cash two more diamonds, defeating the contract with one spade and three diamonds.

It was quite likely that West would hold four trumps, and one way to make the contract was to lead a spade to the King and finesse the 10 on the way back. Then if West continues diamonds, the third round can be ruffed in dummy. As is often the case when seven trumps are held, divided 4—3, the safest line is to give up the second round rather than rely on a 3—3 break.

Chess

White mates in two moves, against any defence (by H. V. Tuxen). A tricky puzzle where White attacks the black king from several directions, but Black's queen is an agile defender.

TARGET

The Word Game

G	Y	L
T	P	S
H	I	R

How many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters shown here? In making a word, each letter may be used once only.

Each word must contain the large letter, and there must be at least one nine-letter word in the list. No plurals; no foreign words; no proper names. TODAY'S TARGET: 19 words, good; 24 words, very good; 30 words, excellent.

STAR JUNIOR CROSSWORD

ACROSS
3 Odd card in a pack
6 Old instrument of torture
7 Fish-eating mammal
8 Timber
10 Heathen
14 Sheep's covering
15 Steep rocks
16 Stopper
17 Very tired.

DOWN
1 Sketches
2 Small deep shovel
4 A "wanted" man
5 Biblical garden
9 Stabbing weapon
11 Of high birth
12 Garden pests
13 Loyal

ALL SOLUTIONS ON P 30

Last week's solution

CROSSWORD

Use the same diagram for either the Cryptic or the Easy puzzle.

ACROSS

9 Good gracious! Is the church-warden pipe responsible for it? (4, 5)
10 Disruption the pot-holer's rescue created? (8)
12 The blow that tells you the force of the wind (4)
13 See the gate into it swings smoothly (6)
14 Understand the ale will flow when there's more money about (7)
15 The lout, when he'd been taken in, became violent. (6, 3)
17 The girl came in tired, worried and peevish (9)
18 Right sick of the complaints (7)
20 In nut cracking, too (3, 3)
21 Ride back with the tots (4)
24 Left the artist at it, painting (8)
26 The boot tree put out is red (8)
28 Sending back to central America, to get rid of (4)
29 The property of an Eastern country (6)
31 They are not insensitive to the overtures (7)
34 The silly lad is covering for the girl and getting the sack (9)
36 Because the estate is broken up, it shows you what's to come (9)
38 Delivers to one a plant (7)
39 Look closely at the name written in pencil (6)
40 "Dessert," not "sweet" (4)
41 An oddly curt "Try to go round the fast way." (5-3)
42 The painter will do the outhouse (9)

DOWN

1 Artist who sounded in a happy mood? (8)
2 The figure in bags, or trousers (6)
3 The strain of courtship! (4, 4)
4 Out I presse, to prepare a meal (6)
5 Will he sing, or first will he tell jokes? (8)
6 Plan to use, again, a liqueur (10)
7 A scant shuffle before a card-game (7)
8 Follow, holding the painter up (that's a rope) (6)
11 Does a little bell tell the gardener when it's needed? (7)
16 Is set to change the number back in it (6)
19 No, sir: play clubs (5)
20 Madman, who's terrified of squirrels? (3)
22 Writing a page to the girl (5)
23 Stop the car; the seat is wobbling about (6)
25 Help the chump get one position (10)
26 A flying competition! (3)
27 Scolded and ordered away (4, 3)
30 Give one the local brew; some kind of tea (8)
31 Falsifying nothing in it and giving it up (8)
32 In case the shade is wrong (8)
33 A crack angler, we're told (7)
35 Before he stands up, be absolutely furious (6)
36 Country from which the coin, a quarter, comes (6)
37 Mean mum to take the baby out (6)

EASY PUZZLE

ACROSS
9 Most important (9)
10 Gangsters (8)
12 Talk incoherently (4)
13 Attack (6)
14 N. American Indians (7)
15 Very tasty (9)
17 Meddle (9)
18 Admit guilt (7)
20 Motor (6)
21 Stain (4)
24 Taken by surprise (8)
26 Gifts (8)
28 Watch lasciviously (4)
29 Pronunciation (6)
31 Old sailing ship (7)
34 Worker with horses (6, 3)
36 Unofficial vote (5, 4)
38 Rests (7)
39 Staggered (6)
40 Machine-gun (4)
41 Fraternity members (8)
42 Uncivilised (9)

DOWN
1 Infrequent (8)
2 Journey (6)
3 Over-particular types (8)
4 Misappropriates (6)
5 Pre-decimal coin (8)
6 Ability (10)
7 Scowls (7)
8 Hinder (6)
11 Agrees (7)
16 Jocular (6)
19 Province of S. Africa (5)
20 Finish (3)
22 Turning-machine (5)
23 Roar (6)
25 Dull (10)
26 Favourite (3)
27 Monk's haircut (7)
30 Lasting (8)
31 Evergreen shrub (8)
32 Not any more (2, 6)
33 Small cupboards (7)
35 Unit of current (6)
36 Tired (6)
37 Set of clothes (6)

SPORTING SAM . . . . . . by Reg Wootton